



# Academy International Travel Services

## Ancient Wonders A SPECIALTY TOUR OF EGYPT

*Curated for Trinity Baptist Church*

### Trip Overview

**Trip Dates:** September 29 – October 13, 2026

**Land Cost:** \* \$9,950.00

*Single supplement: \$4,560.00*

**Deposit:** \$2,000.00 per person due upon registration (invoiced by Inquisitive Ventures, LLC).  
Becomes non-refundable after March 25, 2026.

**Interim Payment:** \$2,000.00 per person due on May 19, 2026 (invoiced by Inquisitive Ventures, LLC).  
Non-refundable after July 9, 2026.

**Final Payment:** balance due on July 9, 2016 (invoiced by Inquisitive Ventures, LLC). Non-refundable.

#### What is included:

- Tour representative in airport to assist with passport control and customs
- One group airport transfer for arrival and for departure, respectively
- Hotel accommodation as per below
- Private transportation on air-conditioned vehicle
- Water on bus
- Breakfast daily
- Lunches daily
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- All meals (“all inclusive”) at Sharm El-Sheikh hotel
- 4 nights on Nile Cruise (Soleil or similar)
- All meals aboard cruise

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\* Pricing is subject to AITS terms and conditions and is based on a group of 12–14 participants. Should the cancellation of individual participants diminish the group size below the minimum, Academy Travel reserves the following options: (1) carry on with the current program but with cost reducing alterations; or (b) levy a surcharge, based on final participation size.

- Snacks on tour
- Guided tour of sites by English-speaking Egyptologist
- Private golf cart at the pyramids
- Entress fees and tickets for sites in the program
- Domestic flights [CAI – LXR; ASW – CAI; ASW – ABS; ABS – ASW; CAI – SSH]
- Excursion to Saint Catherine’s monastery
- 24/7 customer service by Egypt travel partners

**What is excluded:**

- International airfare
- [Entry Visa](#) (option for e-visa but also visa upon arrival)
- Travel & cancellation insurance (highly recommended; link provided by AITS)
- Items of a personal nature — phone calls, laundry, special transfers outside group arrangement
- Other meals not mentioned above and drinks
- Optional visits (e.g., hot air balloon)

**Passport Requirements:** Passports must be current and should be valid for at least six months from the date of return from the trip (August 13, 2027). Please upload an image of the signature and photo pages of your passport to Academy Travel as part of the registration process.

**Hotel Information:**

- 6 nights in Cairo at Four Seasons First Residence hotel or similar
- 1 night in Luxor at Steigenberger Nile Palace hotel or similar
- 4 nights aboard Nile Cruise MS Soleil or similar
- 2 nights in Sharm El-Sheikh at Rixos Premium Seagate or similar

**For more information:** Please contact Dr. Michael Oliver at Trinity Baptist Church or Eric Moore at Academy Travel (404-282-1055; [eric@aitsat.com](mailto:eric@aitsat.com))



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**A SPECIALTY TOUR OF EGYPT**  
**September 29 — October 13, 2026**

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## Itinerary



**Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 — Departure for Cairo**

**Day 1: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026 — Arrival**

Arrive in Cairo. You will be greeted at the airport by a guide, who will help shepherd you through customs. Transfer to your hotel. Depending upon time, explore your surroundings or relax in the hotel.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in Cairo.

**Day 2: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026 — Giza Pyramids, Sphinx, and Grand Egyptian Museum**

Following breakfast, travel to Giza to visit the two surviving wonders of the ancient world: the magnificent Pyramids and Sphinx. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). This newly opened museum (November 1, 2025) contains a staggering 100,000 artifacts from ancient Egyptian civilization, many pieces of which are displayed for the first time. Notably, the GEM hosts the entirety of the King Tutankhamun collection.

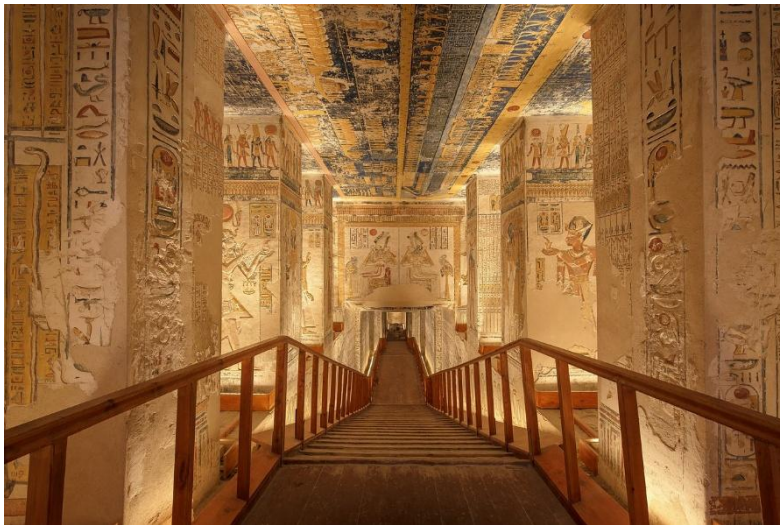
Return to hotel for welcome dinner. Overnight in Cairo.



**Day 3: Friday, Oct. 2, 2026 — Sakkara Complex and Red and Bent Pyramids**

After breakfast, you will take an excursion to the Sakkara (or Saqqara) complex. This area once functioned as a burial ground for kings, queens, and other nobles during the Old Kingdom. Here you will also visit the Step Pyramid of King Djoser, which represents the first successful attempt at building a standing pyramid nearly 5,000 years ago!

Following lunch in a local restaurant, head to Dahshur. Here you will encounter the Red Pyramid, the tallest of its kind in Dahshur, whose name derives from the reddish color of its building blocks. Next, continue on to the Bent Pyramid, so-called due to its changing slope. Return to Cairo. Dinner on your own and overnight in Cairo.



**Day 4: Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026 — Fly to Luxor: Karnak and Luxor Temples**

Following breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer, via domestic flight, to Luxor. Check into your hotel. Your first visit will be to the Karnak Complex, considered the world's largest worship space, complete with huge columns, obelisk, and a sacred lake. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Next, proceed to the Luxor Temple. Here, you'll encounter the Great

Ramses II colossi. Return to the hotel. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Luxor.

**Day 5: Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026 — Valley of the Kings and Queen Hatshepsut Mortuary Temple**

After breakfast, check out of your hotel. Head to the west bank of the Nile to explore the Valley of King, home to Egypt’s most well-known Pharaohs. Our program includes a special extra visit to the tomb of the Golden Pharaoh, King Tutankhamun.

Then continue on to Queen Hatshepsut’s magnificent Mortuary Temple, built nearly 3,500 years ago. This unique temple is partially engraved into the mountain! Following these visits, check into your special Nile cruise.



*Optional: hot air balloon ride.*

Dinner and overnight on the cruise.



**Day 6: Monday, Oct. 5, 2026 — Edfu Temple and Komombo Temple**

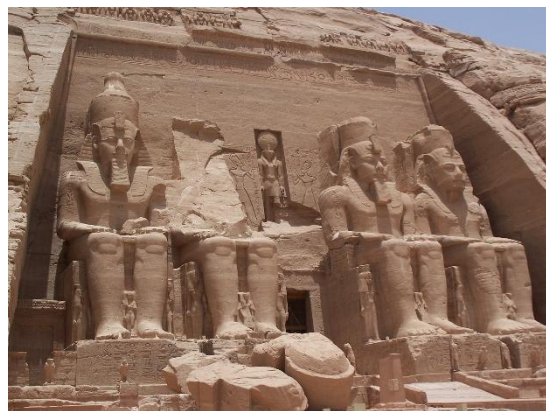
Breakfast on the cruise. Then disembark to visit the Edfu Temple. Considered to be one of the best-preserved temples from ancient Egypt, it is the largest dedicated to the Egyptian god Horus.

Following lunch, visit the Komombo Temple. This unusual temple is unique for its dedication to two separate deities, the local crocodile-headed god, Sobek, and the falcon-headed god,

Horus. Return to your boat, sailing on to Aswan. Dinner and overnight aboard the cruise.

**Day 7: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026 — Abu Simbel Temple**

After breakfast, disembark. Board a flight for Abu Simbel. This temple, carved into the mountain, is a miracle of engineering. Return to your cruise in Aswan.



Dinner and overnight on the cruise.

**Day 8: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026 — Philae Temple**

Following breakfast, head to the Philae Temple, or “Temple of Lovers.” This temple is the physical backdrop to one of the most ancient love stories, that between Isis and Osiris. Return to your ship.

Lunch, dinner, and overnight on the cruise.

**Day 9: Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026 — Fly to Cairo and National Museum of Civilization**

After breakfast, complete your cruise and transfer to the airport. Fly back to Cairo. Upon arrival, your guide will take you to visit the National Museum of Civilization (NEMC), which contains the mummies of royal kings and queens of ancient Egypt.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at a local restaurant. Then check into your hotel.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in Cairo.

**Day 10: Friday, Oct. 9, 2026 — Alexandria**

Following breakfast, transfer to Alexandria, a port city on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. Start your day by visiting the Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa, a Roman burial ground containing three underground floors. Next, you will tour the Roman theater located in Kom El-Dikka. This structure dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE. It features a semicircular design with 13 rows of marble seats, once covered with a wooden roof. To round off the excursion, you will visit the famous-in-the-ancient-world Bibliotheca (“library”) of Alexandria.



Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then transfer back to Cairo.

Dinner on your own. Overnight in Cairo.

**Day 11: Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 — Coptic and Islamic Cairo**

After breakfast, your guide will take you to Coptic Cairo. Here you will enter the Hanging Church, built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and considered the mother of all churches in Egypt. Next, you will visit the Church of Saint Sergius, where resides the crypt in which the virgin Mary and baby Jesus hid after fleeing from king Herod according to local tradition.

Continue your tour by exploring Islamic Cairo. You will visit the Citadel and the Mosque of Muhammad Ali, undoubtedly the highlight of medieval Cairo! An iconic example of Ottoman architecture, the famous mosque sports an impressive dome and intricate decorations throughout.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Then head to the renowned Khan El Khalili local market, a traffic-free pedestrian area. Here you can revel in the beautiful architecture and soak in the Egyptian ambiance. Return to your hotel for a special farewell dinner.

**Day 12: Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026 — Fly to Sharm El-Sheikh**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Cairo airport for your domestic flight to Sharm El-Sheikh. Upon arrival, check into your all-inclusive hotel. Enjoy lunch, dinner, and other amenities at the hotel. Overnight in Sharm El-Sheikh.

**Day 13: Monday, Oct. 12, 2026 — Saint Catherine Monastery and Mount Sinai**

Breakfast at the hotel. Then board your bus for the drive (ca. 3hrs) to Saint Catherine's Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled at the foot of Mount Sinai. Founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE, this monastery is renowned for its remarkable collection of religious icons, ancient manuscripts, and stunning Byzantine architecture. You will



have the opportunity to wander through the well-preserved chapels, including the Chapel of the Burning Bush, and marvel at the detailed frescoes and icons which adorn these walls of those of the famous Mount Sinai Monastery library, which houses invaluable religious texts (including portions of Codex Sinaiticus!). The peaceful courtyards and panoramic views of the surrounding mounts make for a truly inspiring experience.

Following this spiritual experience, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 14: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026 — Return to the US**

Following breakfast, check out of your hotel and then transfer to Sharm El-Sheikh international airport for your return trip to the US.



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### Travel Tips for Egypt

#### Passport & Visa

You need a valid passport to enter Egypt. Though you will not need it on a daily basis, you should always have it available. Keep it safe. Never pack it in your suitcase. And never carry it in your shirt pocket or hip pocket where it is visible to pickpockets.

Your US passport is an extremely valuable item and an important form of identification. I suggest that you take a picture of your passport with your cellphone, so that you always have a copy available. (It might be wise also to email that picture to yourself, so you can access it remotely.) Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the return date of your journey (April 13, 2027).

United States citizens need at least a tourist visa to enter Egypt. [Here](#) you will find instructions on how to apply for the visa (note the option for an e-visa).

#### Health and Vaccinations

We expect everyone to be healthy and fit to travel. Some of our tours require walking distances over uneven terrain. If not sure about your level of fitness, please consult with your physician and discuss the prospect of your participation with the group leader.

Please check the [CDC vaccination recommendations for Egypt](#) and, above all, consult with your primary care doctor about these precautions or any other health concerns.

If you take prescription medications on a regular basis, be sure that they are properly marked with prescription numbers as customs officials may be suspicious of unmarked drugs. [Here](#) you can find TSA instructions/recommendations for transporting medicine (under “medications”). It is a good idea

to keep any medicine you need on a regular basis, properly contained and labeled, close to you for ready access (and in case your checked bag gets misplaced).

### **Money, Financial Hints, and Tipping**

The official currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (E£). For best rates, plan on exchanging USD to pounds while in Egypt. You can do this at a verified ATM, i.e., one associated with a major bank. But be aware of withdrawal limits. It is not a bad idea to carry some USD as back up (safely secured) throughout your trip. But, generally, you should anticipate paying for meals and souvenirs and tipping in the local currency. (For the latter purpose, especially, ensure that you have enough small denominations on hand.) Credit cards — usually, Visa and Mastercard — are accepted in your hotels and other upscale establishments. But otherwise, “cash is king” is king. Lastly, be sure to notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be traveling to Egypt to prevent legitimate purchases from being declined.

Tipping is covered for all events in the program. Naturally, travelers are expected to tip appropriately for non-covered personal services, such as hotel room service and for service at restaurants (for non-covered meals). Be aware that Egypt’s service industry is tipping-based. Many people rely upon tips to meet their basic needs. Please be diligent, therefore, about tipping for non-covered services. (Your guide can provide guidance on tipping expectations for different services.)

### **Baggage**

Please do not bring more luggage than you can manage — specifically, one checked suitcase and one reasonably sized carry-on bag. You will also be allowed to bring a personal item such as purse, small backpack, or a laptop bag in addition to your carry-on bag.

The airlines have very specific rules about baggage. Generally, each checked bag must NOT exceed 20 kg or 158 cm (length+height+width). A 28-inch suitcase (i.e., 28 inches on the longest side) is about right. But make sure you check with the airline itself about size requirements for all bags (checked and carry-on) before packing and arriving at the airport.

Due diligence is also required when it comes to packing liquids of any kind in your carry-on bag. The rule of thumb is that any liquids in your carry-on bag must be no more than 3.4 ounces and should be packed in a clear, quarter-sized zip lock bag. This enables security agents to see items clearly. The bulk of medicines, lotions, and cosmetics can be packed (again, in zip lock bags) in your checked bag. But these general guidelines should always be checked against updated TSA information [here](#).

Finally, it is a good idea to pack enough underwear and overnight necessities in your carry-on bag for about two days. This is just in case your checked bag gets lost or delayed.

### **Clothing**

Plan to dress casually and in layers (shirts, blouses, khaki pants, jeans, etc.) as it can be cool in the early morning and evening. [Here](#) is a look at temperatures across Egypt during the month of October; pack accordingly. Be sure to pack comfortable yet sturdy shoes for walking. (Lighter-weight shoes can

be brought along for use around the hotel.) If you wear glasses, think about bringing an extra pair. And bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Handbags should have a strap across the shoulder. Always keep an eye on your valuables, especially passport. Conceal and protect them so they are not easily swiped by pickpockets.

### **Electricity**

In Egypt, [electricity runs on a 220 supply voltage and 50Hz. Power outlets are of type C and F \(both 2 prongs but incompatible with the flat edged plugs, A and B, employed in the US.\)](#). If you plan on bringing dual voltage devices only (often such items as mobile phones, tablets, kindles, etc.), you will merely need to bring a plug converter/adaptor compatible with the Type C/F sockets for the device to function safely. However, if you intend to bring any non-dual device which operates at the US voltage (110/120V) you will also need to bring a voltage converter. Travelers are responsible for verifying whether a plug adaptor and/or voltage converter is required.

### **Other Items**

Please drink only bottled water while on your trip. You may also wish to bring a few over-the-counter medications for digestive issues, which sometimes arise during travel. Pepto Bismol and/or Imodium fit into this category. For a proactive approach, you might consider taking probiotics each day, something like Culturelle. Likewise, it is a good idea to bring items to address a potential cold (such as aspirin and Kleenex). And again, to be proactive, you might consider taking a vitamin boosting supplement like Air Borne. Other items that could come in handy include dry skin lotion, antibiotic cream, and hand wipes. But a caution is in order: when packing, remember the baggage size limitations!

### **Shopping**

You should not see this trip as a shopping venture. And please do your shopping at appropriate times — not during the excursions! Your guide will see that you have ample opportunities to shop for keepsakes.

Bargaining can be fun. You ask the price; a price is offered; you hesitate but continue to show interest; the shop keeper asks what you are willing to pay; you counter-offer with about half or two-thirds of shop keeper's price; and the fun begins. Be careful, you can be taken! But don't be afraid to try. It is part of the cultural experience. It is bad manners, on the other hand, to start the bargaining match unless there is a reasonable possibility that you will buy. And if you decide not to buy, say so. Don't promise to "come back later."

### **Mobile Phones and WiFi**

Most mobile phones can be used for international calling, texting, and internet access (data). Just be sure to check with your service provider for coverage and rates, as plans vary by service provider. For service not covered by your contract it is easy, inadvertently, to run up a bill of several hundred dollars in no time at all.

Another good communications tool is WhatsApp — a free app for your smartphone. Be sure to download it and learn how to use it in advance. Most hotels and cafes now offer free Wi-Fi, but it is not guaranteed. Check with the hotel for internet access options.

In case of emergency (i.e., a real emergency not birthday greetings), your family can always reach you through Academy Travel. The business number is 404-282-1055.



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## Terms & Conditions

Please read carefully and call Academy Travel with any questions: 404-282-1055.

**RESPONSIBILITY/MANAGEMENT:** In making travel arrangements for the tour, Inquisitive Ventures, LLC ("IV") dba Academy International Travel Services ("AITS") and/or its agents or sub-agents serves as an agent for the tour participants in all matters connected with hotel accommodations, sightseeing, transportation whether by rail, air, motorcoach, boat, or other types of conveyance and other components constituting the travel portion of this tour. IV dba AITS and/or its agents or sub-agents shall have no responsibility for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or additional expense arising from changes in schedule, fire, weather, breakdown in machinery or equipment, sickness, quarantines, acts of governments, or other authorities du jour or de facto, wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, theft, pilferage, improper documentation, or for any other cause beyond their control. IV dba AITS shall not be liable for any act or omission by any individual or firm contracted for services on behalf of the participant. IV dba AITS reserves the right to cancel the tour, reschedule the departure, amend the itinerary, substitute hotels of comparable quality, and generally make any alteration or substitution if improvements can be made or operating requirements make it advisable, or if unforeseen conditions beyond their control make such changes necessary. IV dba AITS also reserves the right not to accept or retain as tour participant any person whose actions, deportment, mental or physical condition impose upon or disturb other tour participants or impede the operation of the tour. In such cases the liability of IV dba AITS shall be limited to a refund of the cost of the unused travel services. By applying for participation in the tour and by utilizing the services of IV dba AITS and/or its agents or sub-agents, the participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. Quoted tour prices include planning, handling and operational charges and are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs, and taxes as of the date of this offer. IV dba AITS reserves the right to increase tour prices (not to exceed \$100 per person) to cover increased costs, tariffs, and taxes, or to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets, and to notify each participant in a timely fashion of an increase.

We regret that we're unable to provide individual assistance to participants with walking difficulties or other personal needs. The responsibility of the tour director/leader who accompanies your trip is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey. They cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one participant. Participants requiring such individualized assistance must be accompanied by an able-bodied companion who can provide it.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Negotiated under separate contract and subject to the terms and conditions of each individual airline.

**LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** Subject to the terms and conditions of each airline, but generally each participant will be allowed one piece of checked luggage at no additional charge when traveling on an international carrier — weight not to exceed 50 pounds. One personal item (handbag, laptop bag, etc.), plus one carry on that must fit underneath an aircraft seat or in an overhead storage compartment. Participants are responsible for verifying baggage allowances with the respective airlines.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION ON TOUR:** Air-conditioned, modern motorcoaches will be used throughout the trip for all excursions, touring and sightseeing. Ground transfers, including baggage, will be provided between all arrival/departure points and hotels except in the US where no such service is provided. Air-conditioned coaches cannot always be guaranteed for this service.

**NON-SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on transfer or on touring motor coaches. This policy is for the wellbeing of all tour members and is intended to provide an enjoyable group travel experience.

**HOTELS:** First-class hotels will be used throughout the trip. Per person costs are based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded or double room with private bath or shower.

**MEALS:** Meals are included as per the itinerary for the trip.

**TAXES/TIPS/FEES:** All service charges are imposed by lodging facilities. Admission fees to the sites or attractions on the official itinerary for the tour are included. Generally, tips for guides and drivers are included in the price of the tour and will be added to final invoice. This will allow the leader to handle the tipping for the group as a whole.

**EXTRA COSTS:** If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, AITS will assign you a roommate if one is available. If there is no one with whom you can share, you will be invoiced for a single room. No price reduction will be extended to those sharing a triple-bedded room. Items or services not specially mentioned as being included such as laundry or dry cleaning and all items of a personal nature are at the full expense of the participant. Beverages are not included with lunch or dinner and are available only at extra cost.

**DOCUMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS:** All checks should be made payable to Inquisitive Ventures, LLC. A deposit is due to reserve each place on the tour. Interim and final payments are due as per the payment schedule for the respective program. Full payment is non-refundable at time of payment. All cancellations must be in writing. No claim will be allowed for any service or sightseeing provided but not used in the course of the trip.

**TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY:** The several transportation companies which are contracted by AITS to provide services during the course of the tour are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their carriers or conveyances. The passenger contract used by the carriers concerned, when issued, constitutes the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of such services, and IV dba AITS assumes no liability or responsibility in connection therewith.