

# **EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE**

**October 2016 - April 2017**

**Pattern II**

**With an Optional Post-Tour Extension:  
Jordan: Petra & Amman**

**Itinerary and Accommodations**

## **EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE**

### **2016/2017 Day-by-Day Itinerary**

#### **DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Cairo, Egypt**

#### **DAY 2: Arrive Cairo**

We arrive in the Egyptian capital and transfer directly to our hotel. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned.

*Accommodations:* Fairmont Nile City

#### **DAY 3: Cairo**

We meet our fellow travelers and Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director who gives us a morning briefing about the journey ahead. Today numerous contemporary and ancient districts comprise Egypt's capital and most populated city, Cairo, standing on both sides of the Nile River. Our full-day tour begins at the world-renowned Egyptian Museum, which holds more than 120,000 relics and antiquities from almost every period in Egyptian history. We continue on to the Citadel of Saladin, a spectacular medieval fortress set high on a hill with extraordinary views of the city below. Built in 1176 to guard against the Crusaders, the Citadel was the home of Egyptian rulers for nearly 700 years, including famed leader Mohammed Ali, whose gilt tomb is inside. Later this afternoon, after lunch at a local restaurant, we return to the hotel. Tonight we enjoy a reception at the hotel before our welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

*Accommodations:* Fairmont Nile City

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **DAY 4: Cairo/Giza Plateau**

Today we visit some of the finest sites in Egyptian antiquity, beginning this morning at the open-air museum at Memphis, Egypt's first capital dating to the early 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Once a magnificent city ruled by legendary King Menes who united Upper and Lower Egypt (ca. 3100 BCE), Memphis is now a pleasant remnant of long-ago times, with sculptures, a Sphinx, and a limestone colossus of Ramses II. Our next stop is at nearby Sakkara, a necropolis used for more than 3,000 years to bury Old Kingdom royalty – and still largely unexcavated today. Much of Sakkara's splendor remains, and can be seen in the Step Pyramid, which was once the largest stone structure ever built. The Step Pyramid forms the center of a remarkable funerary complex, which includes a broad "hypostyle" hall (a structure whose roof is supported by columns), a great court, and stone altars representing Upper and Lower Egypt.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we reach the Giza Plateau and the Pyramids of Egypt, including the Great Pyramid (or Pyramid of Cheops), which ranks among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

For years, scientists have debated about how these massive tombs were built, and to a great degree, the mystery remains unsolved today. The largest structure is the great Pyramid of Cheops, built around 2600 BCE. In front of the Pyramids stands the serene Sphinx, carved almost entirely of one piece of limestone and submerged by desert sands for thousands of years. After a long day of outdoor exploration we return to our hotel late afternoon. Dinner tonight is on your own.

*Accommodations:* Fairmont Nile City

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 5: Cairo/Abu Simbel/Embark Ship**

It's a very early morning as we set off for a flight to Aswan where we board a motorcoach for the 3½-hour ride across a corner of the Sahara to Abu Simbel. We board our ship for lunch together then visit this site with an inspiring history. When the Aswan High Dam was built in the 1960s to control the mighty Nile, it was expected to double the country's hydroelectric supply. But in the course of creating one of the world's largest manmade lakes (Lake Nasser), the resultant flooding would destroy most of the native Nubian villages found here, as well as a number of irreplaceable monuments in the lowlands, among them Abu Simbel. So the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, in conjunction with UNESCO, embarked on a rescue project beyond the scope of anything that had ever before been attempted: they dismantled several ancient sites, stone by heavy stone, and rebuilt them on higher ground. We see the results of these efforts at Abu Simbel, a massive complex of temples guarded by four colossal statues of Ramses II, each more than 60 feet high. Inside, the walls are covered with incredibly well-preserved murals depicting scenes of Queen Nefertari and her court, and of King Ramses in battle. This is truly an astonishing place; one you'll be glad was preserved for posterity. After visiting Abu Simbel, we have an afternoon at leisure aboard our ship. As the desert sun goes down, we return to Abu Simbel and experience one of the highlights of our trip: a dramatic sound-and-light show amid the massive statuary of Abu Simbel. We enjoy dinner on board our ship where we spend the evening.

*Accommodations:* M/S Prince Abbas

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 6: Lake Nasser Cruising – Kasr Ibrim/Amada/Wadi el-Seboua**

This morning you may want to rise early to experience the sunrise over the temples at Abu Simbel. Then during breakfast we sail to the settlement of Kasr Ibrim, the last vestige of Nubian culture still in its original location. After a brief visit during which we learn about this ancient settlement from onboard ship (it's prohibited to go ashore here), we continue on to Amada, where we tour the 8<sup>th</sup>-dynasty Temple of Amada, built during the reign of Tutmosis III and the oldest surviving Lake Nasser temple. During lunch we cruise to Wadi el-Seboua where we explore the reconstructed Dakka temple, dedicated to Thoth, the god of wisdom and justice, and where we spend the night. Tonight we dine aboard our ship.

We are now in the heart of ancient Nubia, the country that bordered southern Egypt during antiquity and was Egypt's gateway to Africa. Though heavily influenced and often ruled by Egypt, Nubia had a culture and history distinct from that of its more powerful neighbor. It had its own kingdoms, some of which were cooperative with Egypt's, while others were competitive. While Nubia has long been incorporated as a part of Egypt, some Nubians have struggled to maintain their culture and traditions, much of which is now dying out because of assimilation and changing times.

*Accommodations:* M/S Prince Abbas

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 7: Lake Nasser Cruising – Wadi el-Seboua/Valley of the Lions/Aswan**

We spend this morning in Wadi el-Seboua touring the Valley of the Lions with its striking avenue of sphinxes. This afternoon we cruise to Aswan, the city where Agatha Christie wrote the famous *Death on the Nile*. We enjoy lunch and dinner together on board. Late this evening we arrive in Aswan and spend the evening on board.

*Accommodations:* M/S *Prince Abbas*

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 8: Disembark/Aswan/Embark Nile Cruise Ship**

We disembark our ship early this morning in the desert lands of Aswan and set out to visit New Kalabsha, site of Kalabsha Temple, the largest freestanding Nubian temple of them all, which was moved and reconstructed here from Old Kalabsha. This sandstone temple dedicated to Mandulis, the Nubian god of religion, preserves Egyptian and Greek history; both languages are carved into the temple walls. After exploring the site, we return to our ship for breakfast then bid farewell to the crew as we embark on a tour of the Aswan High Dam. Considered a miracle of engineering when completed in 1965, the dam required some 18 years of work. Numbers tell part of the story: it stands 11,811 feet long, 364 feet tall, and at its base is 3,215 feet thick. For perspective: the dam's construction used 18 times the amount of material used to construct the Great Pyramid at Giza. But in addition to doubling Egypt's electrical supply, the dam's construction – and subsequent creation of Lake Nasser – also caused the relocation of up to 90,000 Nubians from their homeland. Next we visit the Temple of Isis on the island of Philae. Before the Aswan Dam was built, the temples here were submerged by Nile flooding for six months each year. But in much the same manner as Abu Simbel, the Philae ruins were dismantled and reconstructed on a nearby island, which was landscaped to resemble antiquity's Sacred Island of Isis. The oldest part of the temple dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE, though construction continued until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE. We visit the Hall of Nectanebo, the oldest part of the complex, along with the Outer Temple Court, the Temple of Isis, and the beautiful Osiris Chambers, decorated with *bas reliefs* of Isis, her sons, and other deities.

Our temple touring complete, we board the second ship of the tour, our floating hotel for our four-night stay on the Nile. After lunch on board, we embark small *feluccas*, replicas of ancient Nile sailboats, for a relaxing afternoon sail. We admire the river scenery as we make our way slowly down the Nile, passing close by the Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island, home of the British hero who helped tame the Sudan, and Elephantine Island, with its huge granite rocks. Our sailing excursion complete, we return to our ship. Tonight we attend the Captain's welcome cocktail party wearing traditional Egyptian *galabeya*.

*Accommodations:* M/S *Sun Ray*

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 9: Nile Cruising – Kom Ombo/Edfu/Luxor**

This morning we sail to the ancient trading town of Kom Ombo, on the great caravan route from Nubia, where we see outstanding Nile views from the unusual double temple here, dedicated both to the crocodile god Sobek and to the falcon god Haroeris (Horus the Elder). After returning to our ship, we sail on to Edfu where we explore the Temple of Horus, considered Egypt's best-preserved ancient temple

(having spent centuries buried beneath desert sands). Construction of the complex began under Ptolemy III in 237 BCE and was completed nearly 200 years later; the temple's remains were not discovered until 1900. We see the 12 enormous columns that stand in front of the Great Halls, and stop to admire the wall inscriptions in the Hall of Consecrations. We return to our ship for lunch and this afternoon's cruise to Luxor (our final sail) as we enjoy afternoon tea along the way. A traditional Middle Eastern belly dancing performance accompanies dinner on board tonight. Late this evening we arrive at Luxor where we dock.

*Accommodations:* M/S Sun Ray

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 10: Nile Cruising – Luxor/West Bank**

You may wish to rise early this morning and view the West Bank of “the world’s greatest open air museum,” as Luxor has been called, from above in an optional hot air balloon ride. (At the time of printing, the cost of the 45-minute balloon ride is approximately \$150US per person). Later this morning we embark on an exploration of Luxor, the ancient city that surpasses even Cairo in the number and importance of its ancient sites, which date from 2755 BCE. Beginning on the West Bank at the haunting Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens, this isolated valley holds the tombs of more than 50 kings, queens, and nobles, each in a tomb constructed underground in an attempt to mirror the underworld. For many years Egyptians inhabited this vast City of the Dead in an attempt to protect the tombs from grave robbers – though sadly, some of the tombs were indeed looted over the centuries. What remains, however, are some of the most magnificent paintings you’ll see anywhere in Egypt. The tombs were filled with sand, which not only protected everything inside, but also served as a sort of embalming element for the paintings, preserving them from the wind and sun. Today some of the paintings have been covered by glass for further protection, and photography is strictly forbidden inside the tombs. To visit all the tombs would be impossible; your tour director will select some of the most interesting for you to see. Before returning to the ship, we visit the dramatic Temple of Hatshepsut, dedicated to one of the few female pharaohs; and the enormous Colossi of Memnon, two 64-foot-high statues that once guarded the gates of a mortuary temple. Back on board, we have lunch and the afternoon at leisure; tonight we dine aboard our ship.

*Accommodations:* M/S Sun Ray

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 11: Nile Cruising – Luxor/East Bank**

Today we explore the East Bank, beginning at Karnak. Here we tour the Luxor Temple, where the statue of Amun-Ra, the Sun God and God of Creation, would travel in a procession from Karnak Temple for festivals held during annual flood season. Over the years, more rulers built onto the temple, including Tutankhamun, Ramses II, and even Alexander the Great. We visit the Great Court of Ramses II, the Temple of the Theban Triad, and the obelisk, whose twin stands in the Place de la Concorde in Paris. We then move on to the even more splendid Karnak Temple, which was under construction for some 1,500 years. It comprises the three main temples of Amun, Mut, and Montu, as well as smaller enclosed temples and several outer temples located a short distance north of Luxor. We also see the temple's enormous pylons, the Temple of Ramses II, the Great Hypostyle Hall, and the two Obelisks of Hatshepsut. Tonight you can choose to attend an optional Sound & Light show at Karnak Temple at additional cost (approximately \$40US per person). We dine on our ship tonight.

*Accommodations:* M/S Sun Ray  
*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 12: Disembark/Luxor**

This morning we disembark our Nile ship and transfer to our hotel in Luxor. Our afternoon is dedicated to exploring the Luxor Museum, housing relics discovered at the site. Among the museum's notable artifacts: the mummies of pharaohs Ahmose I (reigned ca. 1539–1514 BCE) and Ramses I (reigned 1292–1290 BCE); items from the pharaoh Tutankhamun's renowned tomb; and statuary from the New Kingdom era (ca. 16<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century BCE). Lunch and dinner today are on your own.

*Accommodations:* Steigenberger Nile Palace  
*Meals:* Breakfast

### **DAY 13: Luxor/Cairo**

We transfer to the airport for the flight to Cairo. After checking in at our hotel, we navigate the exotic Khan el-Khalili bazaar, Cairo's most popular and believed to be the largest in the Middle East, if not the world. Here you can visit artisans who have passed down their skill from generation to generation, perfecting all types of crafts including wood, perfume, leather goods, and glassware. There are bargains to be had on almost every corner, but you are expected to barter hard for them. This afternoon is free for independent exploration and dinner on our own. You might wish to visit the beautiful Coptic Museum with displays chronicling Egypt's Christian history, or return to the Egyptian Museum to see the incredible exhibition of artifacts excavated from the tomb of the young King Tutankhamun ("Tut") in 1922 by an English archeologist. The King ruled for just nine years, but during that time he amassed great wealth, much of which was buried with him in the form of gold amulets and jewelry, a coffin of solid gold, and an exquisite mask of gold and lapis. Or you may wish to visit the Gayer-Anderson Museum, which houses a former British doctor's eclectic collection of artwork and which served as a filming location for the James Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

*Accommodations:* Fairmont Nile City  
*Meals:* Breakfast

### **DAY 14: Cairo**

This morning we encounter Old Cairo – ancient Babylon – the city's oldest section that is a maze of medieval streets, Islamic mosques, minarets, and domes. We begin at 5<sup>th</sup>-century St. Sergius, the oldest church in the area. Inside, 12 columns representing the 12 Apostles separate the nave from the aisles. We also visit the restored Ben Ezra Synagogue, Egypt's oldest, which resembles the 4<sup>th</sup>-century Coptic church it once was. Sadly, Egypt's Jewish community is fast disappearing and there are seldom enough worshippers here to hold a service. Another stop today is el-Mauallaqa, the "hanging church" built over the bastions of a Roman gate. Believed to date from the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the church features a ceiling that resembles an ark, and a carved marble pulpit considered the finest in Egypt. We return to our hotel mid-day; this afternoon is at leisure for further independent exploration or relaxing and enjoying our hotel's amenities. Lunch is on our own today. Tonight we celebrate our adventure along the Nile at a farewell dinner at our hotel.

*Accommodations:* Fairmont Nile City

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 15: Depart for U.S.**

Early this morning, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the United States.

*Meals:* Breakfast

### **PLEASE NOTE**

This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

We will do our best to adhere to our printed itinerary. Occasionally, though, unexpected obstacles – and opportunities – may arise that will force us to deviate from the itinerary as written. We would ask you to be open-minded and flexible should we vary the itinerary slightly. In addition, please note that airline schedules are subject to change. We will provide you with updated flight information closer to your departure.

### **For Land Only Guests**

When you purchase **Egypt & the Eternal Nile** as “land only,” airport transfers and luggage handling at the arrival and departure airports at the beginning and end of the tour are not included. However, should you be at the arrival airport concurrent with the group of arriving Odysseys Unlimited travelers and see the signs for our transfer, you are welcome to transfer with the group at no charge, providing additional seating is available. However, please note that the transfer vehicle cannot wait for you; you must be aboard when the vehicle is leaving. Similarly, when departing from the last hotel for your flight home, you are also welcome to take advantage of the group transfer, provided there is room and you are on board when the van is leaving.

It is important to note, however, that vehicle sizes vary for transfers in all cases. Depending upon the number of guests arriving or departing, we may utilize taxis or smaller vans. At such times, space restrictions will preclude your joining the group transfer and you will be responsible for your own transportation to or from the airport.

### **Important Notes about Travel to and within Egypt**

#### ***Domestic Flights***

This comprehensive tour features many attractions in Egypt that are geographically spread across the country. One of the most convenient modes of transportation is to fly between sites, requiring the services of national carrier EgyptAir, for all domestic flights within Egypt. Typically flights within Egypt can depart at odd times during the day, including some very early morning flight schedules.

The most inconvenient service usually occurs on Day 5 when we fly from Cairo to Aswan. This flight departs Cairo very early in the morning (typically at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m.). Our guests have generally found the schedules to be a minor inconvenience when put in the context of our ability to travel to some of the most remarkable sites on earth.

### ***Traffic***

While heavily-populated Cairo has a metro system (the only one on the African continent), there are only two lines, which makes coverage quite limited – and road traffic especially heavy. You should expect significant traffic congestion, but you'll be comfortable on tour traveling in modern coaches.

### ***River Cruising***

Only five ships are allowed to sail along Lake Nasser, allowing for easy access and a relaxing experience. Conversely, the Nile River is one of the world's busiest and most popular waterways, and it features many river ships competing for limited dock space as they sail similar itineraries to visit the same sights and monuments. Because of the large number of ships as well as local regulations, Nile River vessels typically line up adjacent to one another, several abreast. Please note that you may have to cross over other ships when embarking or disembarking from our river ship.

## **For Guests Taking Odysseys Unlimited's "JORDAN: PETRA & AMMAN" OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION**

### **DAY 15: Cairo/Amman/Petra, Jordan**

This morning we board the 1½-hour flight to Amman, where we then board a motorcoach for the drive to Petra. Along the way, we stop in Madaba, "City of Mosaics," whose chief attraction is a mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It took more than two million colored stones to create this work of art; amazingly, each one remains in place today. After visiting this ancient masterpiece we have an early lunch then continue on to the important pilgrimage site of Mt. Nebo, where Moses was buried overlooking the Jordan Valley. We see the site's 4<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantine churches, the first of which was built to commemorate Moses' death. The churches are closed for renovations, but we should be able to view the Jordan Valley and catch glimpses of Jerusalem's rooftops in the distance. Traveling on, we reach Petra and our hotel late this afternoon, and dine there tonight.

*Accommodations:* Moevenpick Resort Petra

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 16: Petra**



Today we explore Petra, the “rose-red city, half as old as time” that was established around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE and eventually drew fame for its success in the spice trade and for its ingenious hydraulic engineering systems. Forgotten for more than a thousand years, Petra was rediscovered only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; the central part of the city wasn’t excavated until 1958. In fact, even today only a small fraction of this UNESCO World Heritage Site has been uncovered. But what we see here today is enough to astonish and astound even the most experienced traveler: monuments and buildings – temples, tombs, palaces, and dwellings – carved directly into cliffs of a solid mass of rock. Built as a fortress by the wealthy Nabateans, the city that once stood here housed nearly 10,000 people. The ruins are remarkably well preserved, giving us a true glimpse into the lives of those who lived and worked here. The architecture represents some of the most sophisticated of its time, and the variegated rock changes colors with the sun, transforming from a rosy pink to a golden yellow. It is, quite simply, a glorious sight.

We travel on foot, entering Petra by the breathtaking mile-long canyon leading to the site. Among the sites on today’s itinerary: the 8,000-seat amphitheater, the colonnaded street, the Temple of the Winged Lions, and the Royal Tombs set high up into the cliffs. If you wish, you can visit the large and stunning monastery by climbing a staircase of stone at the far end of Petra – a strenuous effort that will result in stupendous views of the surrounding desert. Or relax and have a drink in one of the beverage tents scattered throughout the site. After this full – and fulfilling – day of sightseeing, we return to our hotel late this afternoon. This evening is at leisure for dinner on your own.

*Accommodations:* Moevenpick Resort Petra

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 17: Petra/Amman**

This morning we leave Petra bound for Amman, traveling the Desert Highway that was the region’s original north/south road dating to Biblical times. The once and current capital of one of the world’s oldest continuously inhabited cities, Amman is known for its harmonious blend of ancient and contemporary architecture, and also for the countless relics of its Roman, Byzantine, and Arab past. Upon arrival we stop for lunch at Hashem restaurant, renowned for its *falafel* sandwiches, a Middle Eastern specialty. Then we set off on a walking tour that takes us off the beaten tourist path and acquaints us with this lively Middle Eastern capital. We begin with a visit to the Wild Jordan Centre, where we meet local Jordanians at this non-governmental organization engaged in enhancing and maintaining the beauty and economic vitality of Jordan’s nature reserves. The Centre also offers an opportunity to purchase unique hand-crafted items such as nature-inspired silver jewelry and decorated ostrich eggs. We continue on to the Ottoman-style King Hussein Mosque, built in 1924 on the site of an ancient temple in the heart of downtown Amman; then through the busy streets and vegetables markets to the Nymphaeum, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-century fountain hidden behind private houses and shops. Our next stop comprises another 2<sup>nd</sup>-century landmark, the 6,000-seat Roman Theatre, which is still used today for sporting and cultural events; and the ancient Citadel (El-Qala), which offers excellent views of the city from atop Jabal al-Qala’a, one of Amman’s signature seven hills. After checking in at our hotel, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Dinner tonight is on your own.

*Accommodations:* Le Méridien Amman

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 18: Amman/Jerash**

We travel today to the Roman ruins of Jerash, dubbed the “Pompeii of the East” for its splendid state of preservation. Because of its popular trade routes, Jerash flourished during the reign of Alexander the Great when it became part of the Holy Roman Empire’s Decapolis (the 10 major Roman cities of the East). After the Persian invasion of 614 and a series of consequential earthquakes, Jerash survived as nothing more than a small rural village until its rediscovery in 1925. Here we explore the colonnaded streets, theaters, churches, and temples that comprise the largest Roman site outside of Italy. We return to Amman mid-afternoon then dine together tonight at our hotel. Lunch today is on your own.

*Accommodations:* Le Méridien Amman

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 19: Amman/Depart for U.S.**

Very early this morning we depart for the airport for our flight to the U.S., where we connect with our return flights home.

*Meals:* Breakfast

### **PLEASE NOTE**

In addition, we will do our best to adhere to our printed itinerary. Occasionally, though, unexpected obstacles – and opportunities – may arise that will force us to deviate from the itinerary as written. We would ask you to be open-minded and flexible should we vary the itinerary slightly. In addition, please note that airline schedules are subject to change. We will provide you with updated flight information closer to your departure.

## **EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE 2016/2017**

### **Accommodations**

#### **Fairmont Nile City (also used for Days 13 and 14)**

2005 B, Corniche El Nil, Ramlet Beaulac  
Cairo 2466  
Egypt  
Phone: 011-20-22-461-9494  
Fax: 011-20-22-461-9595  
[www.fairmont.com/nilecity](http://www.fairmont.com/nilecity)

The 504-room Fairmont Nile City stands on the banks of the Nile River close to many historic sites, including Khan el-Khalili bazaar and the Egyptian Museum. This contemporary-style hotel opened in 2009 and offers two restaurants, bar, and lounge; spa with massage treatments; beauty salon; Wi-Fi internet access (for a fee); fitness center; outdoor pool; and laundry and dry cleaning services. Fashioned with Art Deco furnishings, air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, mini-bar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

#### **M/S *Prince Abbas* – Lake Nasser Cruise**

Phone: 011-20-12-220-6747  
Fax: 011-20-12-227-1820  
[www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com)

Launched in 1998 and renovated in 2007, the M/S *Prince Abbas* offers travelers a unique vantage point from which to experience treasures of antiquity in the comfort of contemporary amenities. With just 65 cabins, the 120-passenger ship offers a level of personal service well suited to small group travel. The ship features a dining room, lounge, and bar; observation room/library with panoramic windows; Wi-Fi internet access (though service will likely be limited for most of the trip); laundry service; gift shop; billiard room; and gym. There is no elevator on board. Situated on the canopied Sun Deck are a plunge pool, Jacuzzi, and bar. Your air-conditioned outside cabin has a private bath with hair dryer, mini-bar, TV, phone, music channel, and window. Please note that the ship docks at regular docking facilities in Abu Simbel and Aswan; at other stops you will take small launches or motorboats from the ship to shore.

Length: 280 feet  
Width: 50 feet  
Draft: 7 feet

*Please note that M/S Prince Abbas will not have phone reception once we begin sailing until we near Aswan, or on weekends from approximately 11:00 a.m. on Saturday to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.*

### **M/S Sun Ray – Nile Cruise**

Phone: 011-20-22-690-1756  
[www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com)

Ideally sized for accommodating small tour groups, this 66-cabin river ship was launched in 2003 and offers all the conveniences for touring the Nile in comfort. The 132-passenger M/S *Sun Ray* has five decks and provides such amenities as a restaurant, bar/lounge, Sun Deck with outdoor plunge pool, Jacuzzi, gym, library, laundry service, internet access, and gift shop. There is no elevator on board. Air-conditioned outside cabins offer a window along with private bath with hair dryer, safe deposit box, mini-bar, TV, music channel, and phone.

Length: 236 feet  
Width: 49 feet  
Draft: 5 feet

### **Steigenberger Nile Palace**

Khaled Bin El-Walid Street  
P.O. Box 144  
Luxor 85111  
Egypt  
Phone: 011-20-95-236-6999  
Fax: 011-20-95-236-5666  
<http://en.steigenberger.com>

The Steigenberger Nile Palace sits on the banks of the Nile, in the heart of the city's historic center and a short drive from the Temple of Luxor. The 285-room hotel features four restaurants and three bars; fitness center; spa with sauna, steam bath, and massage treatments; heated outdoor pool; rooftop tennis court; on-site doctor; complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; bookstore; gift shops; hairdresser; and laundry and dry cleaning services. Air-conditioned guest rooms each have private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, mini-bar, TV, and phone.

**“JORDAN: PETRA & AMMAN” 2016/2017  
OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION  
Accommodations**

**Moevenpick Resort Petra**

P.O. Box 214  
Wadi Mousa  
71810 Petra  
Jordan  
Phone: 011-962-3-215-7111  
Fax: 011-962-3-215-7112  
[www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com)

The 183-room Moevenpick Resort Petra is located at the entrance to Petra and features a mixture of Western, contemporary, and traditional architecture and artwork. On-site amenities include two restaurants, bar, and lounge; indoor and outdoor pools; tennis courts; fitness center; spa with steam bath; complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; gift shop; and laundry and dry cleaning services. Each air-conditioned guest room has a private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, mini-bar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

**Le Méridien Amman**

Queen Noor Street, Shmeisani  
P.O. Box 950629  
11195 Amman  
Jordan  
Phone: 011-962-6-569-6511  
Fax: 011-962-6-567-4261  
[www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)

Le Méridien Amman stands in the heart of Jordan’s capital city, just minutes from the Amman Citadel, the Roman Theatre, and the shopping district. The 430-room hotel has six restaurants and two lounges; both indoor and outdoor pools; spa with sauna, steam rooms, and massage treatments; fitness center; complimentary Wi-Fi internet access; gift shop; and laundry service. Each of the 430 guest rooms has air conditioning, private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, mini-bar, TV, and phone.