



**Romance VOYAGES** *intimate journeys for men*



**ITINERARY**

Date 2010		Day	Destination	Activities	Meals
<b>12 Night Egypt/Nile Adventure</b>					
Mar. 5	Friday	0	USA/Cairo	Depart USA	
<b>Mena House Oberoi</b>					
Mar. 6	Saturday	1	Cairo/Giza	Arrive and check into Mena House Oberoi, Welcome Dinner	D
Mar. 7	Sunday	2	Giza	Memphis, Saqqarah (Step Pyramid of Zoser), Giza (Great Pyramid, Sphinx) Sound & Light Show	B/L/D
<b>Cruise: Sonesta Star Goddess</b>					
Mar. 8	Monday	3	Luxor	Fly to Luxor; West Bank (Valley of Kings, Valley of the Queens, Temple of Hatsepsut, Colossi of Memnon), Captain's Party	B/L/D
Mar. 9	Tuesday	4	Esna/Edfu	Esna (Temple of Khnum), Edfu (Temple of Horus), Egyptian Costume Party	B/L/D
Mar. 10	Wednesday	5	Aswan	Aswan (Elephantine Island, felluca sailing), Martini Party and Disco Night	B/L/D
Mar. 11	Thursday	6	Aswan	Aswan (High Dam, Quarries, Temple of Philae), Talent Show	B/L/D
Mar. 12	Friday	7	Abu Simbel/Aswan	Fly to Abu Simbel (Temple of Ramesses II), Return to Ship, Nubian Folkloric Show	B/L/D
Mar. 13	Saturday	8	Kom Ombo	Aswan (Nubian Museum), Kom Ombo (Temple of Horus), Egyptian Costume Party, Part 2	B/L/D
Mar. 14	Sunday	9	Luxor	Luxor (Luxor Temple, Luxor Museum), Karnak (Temple of Amun), RomanCE Dance	B/L/D
<b>Conrad Cairo</b>					
Mar. 15	Monday	10	Luxor/Cairo	Disembark ship, Fly to Cairo (Egyptian Museum), Check into Conrad Cairo Hotel	B/L
Mar. 16	Tuesday	11	Cairo	The Citadel & The Khan al-Khalili Bazaar and Coptic Museum	B/L
Mar. 17	Wednesday	12	Cairo/USA	Say goodbye until next time	B

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## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

## Day 1: Cairo/Giza



Mena House Pool



Mena House Standard Room

Our representatives will meet you at the Cairo International Airport to help you with customs and your transfer by air-conditioned coach to the Mena House Oberoi Hotel. This hotel is one of the most celebrated in the world, hosting international delegations since it opened a century ago. The reason is simple: This positively regal hotel overlooks the Great Pyramids of Giza, the only survivors among the Seven Wonders of the World. In the midst of a spectacular renovation, it will be at full glory when we arrive. A garden room with a view of these most famous symbols of Egypt has been reserved for you, and we will have you checked in before you even arrive. Spend the afternoon unwinding in the spectacular pool, then join ROMANCE VOYAGES for the Welcome Dinner.

## Day 2: Giza



Step Pyramid of Zoser



The Sphinx



Great Pyramid

**Getting Oriented:** Figuring out where you are and where you are going in Egypt can be a bit confusing because cities often have ancient Egyptian, ancient Greek and Arabic names, and there are wide variations in the accepted spellings. Moreover, many important historical figures come from countries that no longer exist. For example, for almost 100 years, Egypt was led by Nubian pharaohs from the kingdom of Kush, which is now largely the Sudan. (In addition to pharaohs from Egypt and modern-day Libya, Egypt has been ruled by Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Ottomans, and the British.) Finally, most of us are used to thinking about upper as north, and lower as south, but because the Nile flows from the south up to the Mediterranean, in Egypt it is the reverse: e.g., “lower” means north.

The Mena House Oberoi Hotel is in Giza, which is on the southwest outskirts of Cairo, about 25 miles or so from the Cairo International Airport. Cairo sits at the apex of the Nile delta, about 160 miles south of the Mediterranean, located where an island made crossing the river relatively easy. Cairo has a population of about 17 million people and is the capital of Egypt. Its museums, mosques, Coptic treasures, and bazaars are amazing, and the city is the focus of our travel after the cruise. For the first part of the journey, we stay outside the city to see the sights inspired by the great city of Memphis.

**Memphis:** Memphis was the original capital of the country when Lower and Upper Egypt were united by the first pharaoh, Menes, around 3100 BC. Memphis was the administrative city, and the buildings were not built for the ages—they were mostly made of mud brick and wood. Consequently, few dramatic sights remain. The importance of Memphis is the pharaohs’ temples and crypts, which over thousands of years grew into a giant necropolis that stretches for over 20 miles to the north and west and a bit more to the south. The main attractions in Memphis are the limestone Colossus of Ramesses II, which is over 30 feet tall despite the fact that it no longer has feet, and the Alabaster Sphinx, which is stunning crystalline limestone bleached white from centuries resting in water.

**Saqqarah:** Located only a little more than a mile from Memphis, Saqqarah is the site of the first pyramid, the Step Pyramid of Zoser. This masterwork was designed and built by the great architectural and medical genius, Imhotep, himself deified in the 6th century BC. It was one of the earliest of all the pyramids and the first great monument in the world to be built of hewn stone. Many of its aesthetic elements, such as using wood or reeds as motifs to soften the visual appearance of stone, were adopted by future builders. The Step Pyramid is not shaped like the familiar four triangles rising to a point, but more like a six layer cake, with each square layer smaller than the next. It forms a lumpy version of the familiar outline of a pyramid.

In the complex around the Step Pyramid, there are several impressive groups of tombs called mastabas containing wonderfully preserved texts and paintings from the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties (about 2500 to 2300 BC.) The largest is the Mastaba of Mereruka, a vizier, which has paintings showing everyday life, such furniture making, hunting and goldsmithing; dancers and musicians; and his family playing music and board games. (Mastabas are often stunningly beautiful because they are intensely decorated with wall paintings, which could not be readily hauled away by early archeologists and other looters. Egyptian law specifies that if you dig it up, you keep half.)

**Giza:** The most striking thing about Giza is the size of the Great Pyramid, as the Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) is called. Originally about 480 feet high, constructed from over two million stone blocks, each weighing several tons, it is the last of the Seven Wonders. All but the top 30 feet remain. The nearby Pyramid of Khafre is only slightly smaller, although it looks even bigger than the Great Pyramid from most vantage points because it rests on higher ground. Each pyramid complex has a pyramid temple, a causeway, and a valley temple. The Sphinx is at the end of the causeway from the Pyramid of Khafre, and was probably built by him. The Sphinx was carved from an outcrop left after quarrying, and the stone is not very good (which is, after all, why they left it there), so the Sphinx suffers more than most monuments from exposure to sand, pollution and a rising water table. (The term “sphinx” refers to any human-head/animal-body sculpture, but when people just say “The Sphinx,” they mean this one.) Surrounding the complex are the tombs of the pharaohs’ high ranking officials and friends, but the coolest thing is the Boat Museum. A royal boat, 140 feet long and stunningly beautiful, was excavated from a pit in 1954 and reconstructed. It was built from cedar imported from the famed lost forests of Lebanon, and it is remarkable to have survived for so long.

### Day 3: Luxor



**Travel Plans:** Today, after an early breakfast and hotel check out, we transfer to Cairo airport to board a plane bound for Luxor. In Luxor, we will board the Sonesta Star Goddess to begin our Nile cruise. After touring the West Bank and the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, we will set sail on the Nile headed south.

**Why the West Bank:** The minute you became the pharaoh, you started work on your tomb. Problems rose with grave robbers stealing the gold, jewels and treasures buried with the mummies to provide for the afterlife from the pyramids. The West Bank, across the river from Luxor, acted as a secluded spot for your mummy to spend eternity. The pharaohs of the 18th Dynasty stopped the tradition of pyramid building, and had their tombs tunneled deep into the mountain sides of the region. These complex catacombs were harder to rob and easily concealed. Even the tomb for Ramesses II’s many sons, which has over 100 rooms, remained hidden until only about 10 years ago.

**Entrance to the West Bank:** The Colossi of Memnon flank the outer gates of the largest of the temples on the west bank, that of Amenhotep III. They are the first monuments to greet you as you enter the West Bank necropolis. Despite being damaged by nature, ancient tourists, and faulty repairs 18 centuries ago, the statues are over 75 feet tall, and impressively beautiful. The statues are carved from blocks of quartzite and depict Amenhotep III and his mom and Amenhotep III and his wife and daughter. Due to an earthquake in 27 BC, these statues became known for a bell like tone that occurred on hot mornings as the humidity hissed out of the cracks and fissures. This turned them into instant tourist attractions, because hearing the song meant that the gods liked you. Tourists flocked in, including a Roman emperor or two. The song came to an end when the Roman emperor Septimius Severus “fixed” the statues in 199 AD by plugging whatever crack or hole was making the magic, and silenced them forever.

**Temple of Hatsheput:** The area around the Colossi is where most of the major temples of the West Bank were constructed, and those of Thutmose III and IV, Amenhotep II, Sety I, and Ramesses III are still quite majestic. The amazing Tombs of the Nobles are also nearby. Up and around the road a bit, sits the most stunning, the Temple of Hatsheput, who ruled as pharaoh for 15 years, and who is fittingly interred in the Valley of the Kings. She was the daughter, sister, wife and aunt (which, as you will recall, were overlapping categories) of the first three Tuthmosis, and her own reign was grand. Her temple is being lovingly restored by the Polish Centre for Mediterranean



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**Archaeology.** The temple is built into the side of the mountain, with a long ramp that leads across two giant terraces. Three columned facades are being restored, the first now completed almost to perfection. In its original state, the courtyards were filled with fountains and flowering plants and trees. Even now, it looks remarkably modern.

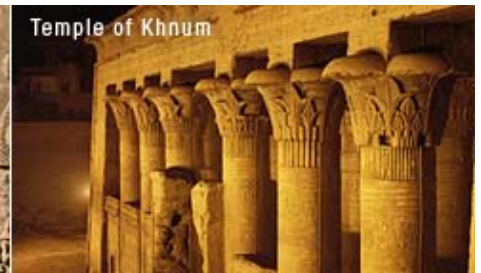
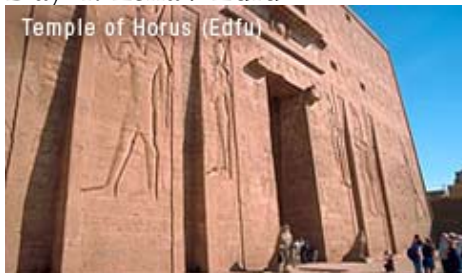
**Valley of the Kings:** The tombs of the pharaohs were located in the secluded Valley of the Kings. The name is a bit of a misnomer, because not all of the 62 tombs excavated to date are royal. (Those of nobles and the privileged were generally undecorated, and we won't be seeing those.) The most famous tomb is the one that belonged to Tutankhamun, a relatively unimportant pharaoh who was hastily buried in a tomb probably not even intended for him. The tomb is famous because it was concealed under the village of the workmen who cut the tomb for Ramesses VI (one of the largest tombs in the valley), so when it was discovered in 1922, the tomb had all of its treasure.

Not all of the tombs are accessible (Hatshepsut's, for example, is not), and of those that are, the authorities rotate which are available to be visited, so we cannot predict which ones we will see. Generally, they keep open a couple of examples of each of the three basic types. The early tombs have staircases and corridors, change direction and are decorated with scenes from the Book of the Secret Chamber. The middle stage tombs incorporate the Litany of Ra, and the dead pharaoh will appear before the falcon-headed sun god. In the last phase, the tombs are basically just huge sloping corridors, but a wide set of books are used as the basis for the art. Aside from the long downward corridor, the tombs generally have a well room (a deep shaft designed to foil burglars), a hall generally held up by pillars, and the burial chamber. Additional chambers and corridors would be added for decoration and such, or to bury a few extra relatives and guests.

**Valley of the Queens:** Most of the wives of the pharaohs and their children were buried in the Valley of the Queens, which is in the hills to the south of where their husbands were buried. Few are open to the public, and even the restored Tomb of Nefertari, one of the most impressive monuments in the West Bank, is open to only 150 people per day. The cliffs surrounding the valley make the experience spectacular. Perhaps because the tombs were laden with less treasure, greater effort was devoted to the wall paintings, which often remain reasonably intact. Egyptian art evolved significantly during this period, with paintings stretching across adjacent walls, and considerable more realism in the portrayal of the figures. Often modeled in low relief in plaster and then painted, occasionally an individual figure will break out from the scene.

**Captain's Party:** Tonight our Captain invites you to a cocktail party where you can meet and mingle with the ship's officers and staff. Who doesn't love a man in a crisp white uniform, especially when he's buying the drinks!

## Day 4: Esna / Edfu



**Esna:** The modern town of Esna is built over the Temple of Khnum, and only the hypostyle hall of the temple, some 30 feet below the level of the street, has been excavated. However, the temple is of great historical importance because the names and the activities of the Ptolemies and the Roman emperors are recorded up to Decius, who was murdered in 251 A.D. The decoration in the temple is elegant, with figures of the emperors and hymns to Khnum written entirely in hieroglyphs formed from crocodiles.

**Edfu:** The Temple of Horus in Edfu is the most completely preserved in Egypt, with its pylon, exterior walls and sanctuary all in near perfect condition. Its walls detail all of mythology and the politics of the time. It has the standard temple design. You enter through the separation between the massive pylons into a walled court. This wall continues around the entire temple. From the court, you enter a hypostyle hall, and from there, you cross another pylon into a smaller court fronting the building complex that contains the sanctuaries, tombs, and chapels.

**Egyptian Costume Party:** A great tradition of these Nile cruise ships is the Galabayya party, where you dress up in traditional Egyptian garb, and then try to dance to traditional local music. The dance steps are relatively easy, but when you are dressed like King Tut—or the Queen of the Nile—no one will care if you decide to just do your own thing—and the costumes are provided!

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## Day 5: Aswan



Felluca



Elephantine Island



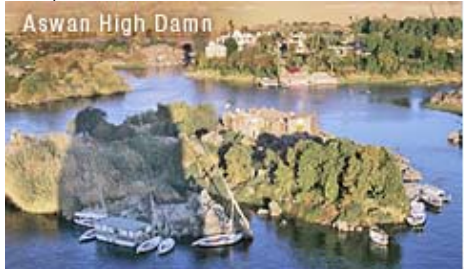
Martini Party

**Elephantine Island:** Elephantine Island is located at the First Cataract of the Nile, which provided a natural boundary between Egypt and Nubia. It was easily defensible, serving as a fortress through much of its history, and was a prime trading center. The island is beautiful. Although many of the artifacts are in ruin, there are wonderful gardens and several colorful Nubian villages. The houses are generally painted with animal figures, such as crocodiles and fish. It is a pleasant place to experience a taste of the Nubian culture.

**Felluca sailing:** If there is even a bit of wind, then going for a ride on the traditional sailboats of the Nile, the felluca, is a must-do experience. The mast is constructed in two parts. The first is relatively short and is attached to the deck of the ship in the usual spot. The second is attached at the top of the first, and is large for the size of the vessel. The flexing angled mast and the large 'v'-shaped sail give the boats exceptional grace. We expect to sail around Kitchener's Island, a botanical garden filled with exotic imported plants and trees. It is a perfect way to spend a lazy afternoon in the shade.

**Martini Party and Disco Night:** We try to mostly do the romantic thing, but after a bunch of cocktails, it's fun to shake your booty. So tonight we disco a bit before the slow songs start. The ROMANCE Dance is the last night of the cruise, where we feature the most romantic music we (and you) can find, so you can hold your special honey-bear close and whisper sweet thoughts of endless love.

## Day 6: Aswan



Aswan High Dam



Trajan's Kiosk



Temple of Philae

**High Dam:** A visit to the Aswan High Dam is an inspiring experience. While its neighbors have experienced famines, Egypt has been spared because of the dam, and there is no longer flooding—an important consideration given that about 95 percent of Egypt's population lives within 12 miles of the river. The first Aswan dam was built in 1889, but even after it was raised twice, it almost overflowed in 1946. The High Dam prevents this from occurring, and the beautiful Lake Nasser is the third largest reservoir in the world, stretching for 500 miles. The dam was created from tons of rubble (enough to build 17 pyramids) and provides about half of Egypt's power supply.

The dam, for all its good, has caused problems and controversy. First, paying for the dam caused havoc. Egypt requested loans from the World Bank. The United States initially agreed but then suddenly withdrew, presumably because of Nasser's refusal to give up his country's non-aligned status. Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal to help pay for the dam, and the United Kingdom, France, and Israel invaded. The Soviets stepped in to the "rescue" and provided the necessary money and technology. (They wore out their welcome over the next few years.) Once the project was underway, over 90,000 Nubians were relocated, and there was a wild race to save the artifacts of the region before they submerged. Now that the dam is finished, it is rapidly filling with sediment, which is decreasing its storage capacity, farmers use about a million tons of artificial fertilizer they did not need before, and the Nile delta faces erosion. Poor drainage of the newly irrigated lands has led increased salinity, which leaches back from the salty ocean sand below, and the stagnant hot water must be carefully monitored for parasites. Still, it is pretty, and no one misses the big famines.

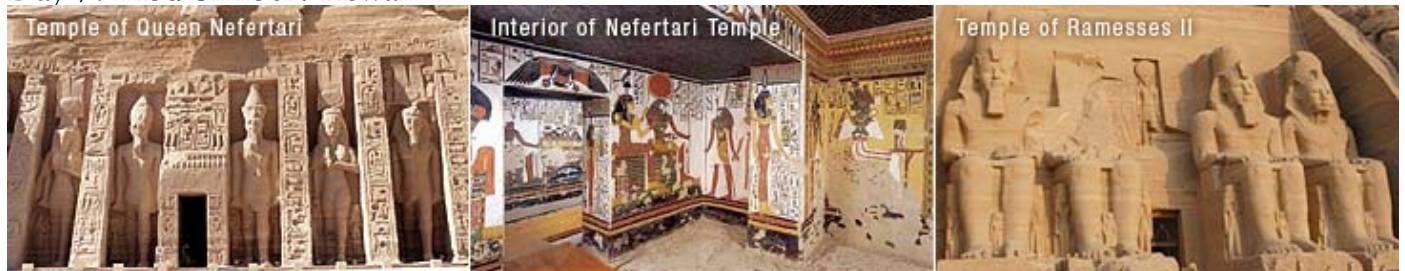
**Quarries:** The tools used to cut the hard granite rock for the monuments of the pharaohs are unknown, but the granite cut in Aswan was hewn in massive quantities and used as far away as Thebes. The only tools that remain are copper, which would have been far too soft, and it appears that the ancients could bore granite at far greater speeds than we can achieve today. Perhaps the most famous quarry is the site in Aswan of the Unfinished Obelisk. The obelisk would have been the largest the world had seen, but flaws in the stone

prevented its completion.

**Temple of Philae:** Philae is an island now buried beneath Lake Nasser, submerged by the High Dam. The main temple, the center of the cult of the goddess Isis, was relocated to the island of Agilika. Philae was a tiny island about four miles south of modern Elephantine almost entirely covered with temples and other monuments. The new location was carefully landscaped to make it resemble Philae as much as possible, and about 40,000 blocks weighing about 20,000 tons were moved to the new location. The temple is distinguished by several 60 foot tall pylons. The most beautiful part of the temple is Trajan's Kiosk, which shows the Roman emperor making offerings to Isis and Osiris.

**Talent Show:** Whether you sing or dance or just dress up and prance, come and entertain us. Don't worry if you are not quite ready for Broadway: talent is great, but enthusiasm works just fine.

## Day 7: Abu Simbel / Aswan



**Travel Plans:** Today we step off the Star Goddess and board an early morning plane for Abu Simbel, which is at the very south of Egypt. After touring around for about three hours, we get back on the plane and fly back to our ship. Breakfast will be on the run, but we should make it to the ship by 1:30 pm for a nice proper lunch.

**Abu Simbel:** One of the most amazing things about Abu Simbel is that these monumental temples were all picked up and moved—had they stayed where they were, the rising waters from the High Dam would have covered them. Thirty countries worked for ten years and 23 temples were saved.

The Temple of Ramesses II, the most magnificent monument in Nubia, was dedicated to Ramesses II and to the four universal gods Ptah, Re-Harakhte, Amun-Re, and Ramesses II himself. (He was deified after his 64 year reign.) Unlike most temples, it is not free-standing, but rather the façade was cut from the cliff face itself, hewn into a pylon surrounded by four seated statues of Ramesses II. The northern wall of the central hall was decorated with an extraordinary relief of the great battle won by the pharaoh against the Hittites, and the standing and seated statues are stunning. The temple was built at the height of the Egyptian empire, which brought peace with the Hittites, who ruled from Iraq to Palestine, and rule over Libya.

### Dictionary of Egyptian Architecture

- • Hypostyle: building design where the roof is supported by columns.
- • Mastaba: a flat-roofed oblong-shaped tomb in which a deep chamber is dug out and lined with stone, mud bricks, or wood.
- • Pylon: a monumental tower forming the entrance to a temple, consisting either of a pair of tall quadrilateral masonry masses with sloping sides and a doorway between them or of one such mass pierced with a doorway.
- • Stele: an upright stone slab, pillar or other prepared surface bearing an inscription or design and serving
- as a monument, marker, or the like.

The Temple of Queen Nefertari was also saved. Nefertari was the most beloved of the wives of Ramesses II, and the temple has a beautiful relief of Nefertari watching lovingly as her husband smites his enemies. The most unusual feature is that the façade is not simply monster statues of the pharaoh or the gods. Typically the statues of the pharaoh's family would be miniatures compared to the big man himself. Here, Ramesses' special love for Nefertari is clear—the whole family stands tall.

**Nubian Folkloric Show:** Tonight onboard we will see local performers recreate traditional folk tales and music from Ancient Nubia.

## Day 8: Kom Ombo



**Aswan:** Nubia once occupied the area between Aswan and what is now central Sudan (the country immediately south of Egypt.) Now a barren desert, it then had seasonal lakes and savanna that supported a large population. Nubia was part of the Kushite Empire until around 1500 BC, when it was conquered and incorporated into Egypt. It was a rich and dynamic region, with great resources such as gold, ebony, ivory, and slaves. (The name, Nubia, comes from the ancient Egyptian word for gold.) Once colonized, Nubia and her people became thoroughly incorporated into Egyptian culture. Egypt was ruled by Nubian pharaohs for about a century, who at that point were probably more Egyptian than the Egyptians themselves. One such pharaoh, Shabako exalted traditional pyramids, and as a result, Nubia had more pyramids than Egypt. The Nubian Museum was completed in 1997, and houses a magnificent collection of treasures from the area.

**Kom Ombo:** There were many temples dedicated to Horus, and this is not the largest (we will see that one later). The outstanding feature of this Temple of Horus is that it is actually the unique unification of two adjacent temples, one dedicated to crocodile-headed Sobek, god of fertility and creator of the world, and the other to falcon-headed Horus, the solar war god. Each temple has its own entrance, chapel, etc. In the hypostyle hall, a central row of columns separates the gods.

The Temple of Horus was built by the Ptolemic pharaohs, descendants of Alexander the Great and his generals, who ruled Egypt for almost three centuries. To give you some idea of the complex social relationships of the time, the temple's hypostyle hall is decorated with scenes of Ptolemy VIII accompanied with his sister and ex-wife (Kleopatra II) and her daughter, his wife, Kleopatra III. Kleopatra II and III both ruled as pharaohs, and continued to marry their siblings. Keeping it in the family was a long-standing Egyptian tradition. One result of this inbreeding is that there is a lively discussion among Egyptologists as to which pharaohs had what genetic disorders. The Kleopatra that fell in love with Mark Antony was the scrappy VII, who actually slept with several boys who were not in her immediate family.

**Egyptian Costume Party Part 2:** The tradition continues. If you didn't get to be your favorite Pharaoh or Queen the first time, you have a second chance to "walk like an Egyptian".

## Day 9: Luxor



**Thebes:** The most generally used name for this region is "Thebes," which includes Luxor, Karnak and the West Bank. The region contains the largest surviving concentration of ancient monuments in the Nile Valley. Of little importance during the Old Kingdom (3100 to 2183 BC), Thebes became the major residence of the pharaohs during the Middle Kingdom, waxing and waning depending on the degree to which they worshiped Amun (the blue sky god who merged with the sun god, Ra.) Thebes was the burial place for dozens of pharaohs across five different dynasties.

**Karnak:** The Temple of Amun was built, enlarged and rebuilt over 1,000 years. It is the largest temple complex in Egypt, and one of the largest religious buildings in the world. (Napoleon's engineers calculated that the entirety of the Notre Dame would fit into its Hypostyle Hall.) The east side of the temple is built among three gigantic pylons, with the Kiosk of Taharqo (one of the Nubian pharaohs), the Barque Shrine of Sety II, and the Temple of Ramesses III between the first two, and the Hypostyle Hall between the second and third. The west side of the temple contains within its walls obelisks, shrines, the Solar Chapel, with the Middle Kingdom Court at its

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center. If this sounds overwhelming, it is, and it makes up only a portion of the complete complex of temples. Other temples within the walled complex honor Monthu (a sun god), Akhenaten (the pharaoh who revolutionized religion in Egypt, leading to a decline in the decadent power of the priests of Amen), Opet (the hippopotamus goddess, mother of Osiris) and Khonsu (the moon god). Walking out of this complex down the Avenue of Sphinxes leads to the temples of Mut (the goddess consort of Amun) and Ramesses III (the deified pharaoh).

**Luxor:** The temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor are a little less than two miles apart. The Temple of Luxor was built primarily by one pharaoh, Amenhotep, and is far more coherent than Karnak. King Tut helped complete it, and even Alexander the Great added to it 1000 years later. The temple was the residence of Amun's consort Mut, and served as a sort of harem. The divine statue of Amun would be brought down from his temple to Luxor to symbolically father the king, and everyone would rejoice. The temple is beautiful, and the central court is spectacular at dusk, when the color of the stone turns to orange. The Luxor Museum houses many of the statues found in the area, protecting them from theft. The black granite statues from the reign of Amenhotep III, discovered in only 1989, are especially stunning.

**The Sound and Light Show at the Karnak Temple** is either great or tacky, depending on your point of view. It is worth going, just for the fun of it, even though it will be the end of a long day. We love camp. For the benefit of those better at foreign accents than foreign languages, we will attend the English-language version.

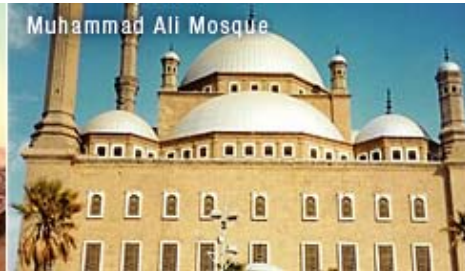
## Day 10: Luxor & Cairo



**Travel Plans:** We disembark the ship in early morning and fly back to Cairo. Our new hotel, the luxurious Conrad Cairo Hotel, is located in the heart of the city.

**The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities:** Before arriving at the Conrad we will tour the Egyptian Museum. Without doubt, this museum holds the greatest collection of Egyptian artifacts in the world. The ground floor displays larger objects running chronologically running clockwise from the left. Upstairs are the treasures of Tutankhamun and Case H, which contains the small masterpieces for which the museum takes especial special pride.

## Day 11: Cairo



**The Citadel:** After the agonies of rule by the Byzantine Empire, the Egyptian people were indifferent to the capture of the country by the early Muslim generals. Egyptian Christians of the Coptic sect were especially hostile to Byzantine rule, but the high taxes and corruption over time made the rule from Baghdad progressively less popular. In the 9th century AD, the local governor established the first autonomous Muslim state in Egypt. The shift between external and local rule continued for hundreds of years, with an occasional crusade or plague tossed in for good measure. The problems resembled those of the rest of the Muslim world, who argued whether the successors to Mohammad should be by election or those who favored the latter, the most successful in Egypt were the Fatimids, who based their claims on power through the direct descent of their cleric from the prophet's daughter, Fatima. This was last Arab dynasty to rule Egypt, falling to the great general Saladin in 1171. He began work on the Citadel, an impressive series of buildings within a fortress, as a place from which to command his armies. Construction continued for almost 700 years, and the complex served as the seat of government until only about 150 years ago. Built inside the Citadel is the Muhammad Ali Mosque, designed by a Greek



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architect following Ottoman designs with a few ancient and Mamluk decorations thrown in for good measure. Reminiscent of the mosques of Istanbul, its walls are covered with a beautiful alabaster finish, and it is often called the Alabaster Mosque. The terraces in the back offer a terrific view of the city.

**The Khan al-Khalili Bazaar and Coptic Museum:** After lunch, we are off to the Khan al-Khalili, Cairo's most famous bazaar. In this maze Shop for silks, clothing, fine carpets, gold and silver jewelry and kitsch. Egyptians are very friendly people, famously hospitable, but the key word to a good deal is "haggle". If you are not much of a shopper, we can direct you to the Coptic Museum (museum admission charges are not included). The museum traces the history of Christianity in Egypt since the first century when Saint Mark brought Christianity to Egypt. The museum's highlight is the famed Nag Hammadi Codices. Also known as the Gnostic Gospels, they are a collection of early Christian Gnostic texts written in Coptic.

**Farewell Dinner:** Join your ROMance VOYAGES staff and all your new friends for a fabulous farewell dinner. Toast to a wonderful adventure and firm up all your plans for your next ROMance VOYAGE.

## Day 12: Cairo/USA

**Travel plans:** Travel plans: Buffet breakfast at leisure. Transfer by air-conditioned coach to Cairo Airport to board your flight to the US.



## AMENITIES

- Airport greeting with escorted transfers to hotel in Cairo
- 2-nt. stay at the 5-star Mena House Oberoi in Cairo, with welcome dinner, breakfasts, and multiple escorted tours
- 7-nt. Nile cruise aboard the **Sonesta Star Goddess**
- All staterooms have Nile view, private facilities, individual air conditioning, satellite TV, in-room safe, and mini-bar
- All onboard meals
- Daily private tours with Egyptologist guides
- All onboard events and entertainment
- Large sun deck with pool and sunning areas
- Outdoor bar on sun deck
- Gourmet menus and lavish buffets
- Souvenir and Gift shop
- Attentive personal service, including an experienced Cruise Manager and ROMance VOYAGE staff escort
- 2-nt. post-cruise stay at the 5-star Conrad Hotel Cairo
- Escorted airport transfer to airport for your return flights
- All intra-Egypt air transfers



## PRICING

Cruise and Land Tour	
Category	Double Occupancy Rate (pp)
Chopin Suites (559 sq. ft.)	\$12,999 (Wait List Only)
Beethoven Suite 1: Deck D (430 sq. ft.)	\$9,499
Beethoven Suite 2: Deck C (430 sq. ft.)	\$9,249
Beethoven Suite 3: Deck B (430 sq. ft.)	\$8,999
Mozart Suites (376 sq. ft.)	\$7,499
Gov't fees & taxes: \$647.00 pp additional	

### Included:

- Deluxe hotel accommodations including two nights at the Mena House Hotel and two nights at the Conrad Hotel Cairo with breakfast.
- Coach class intra-tour flights: Cairo/Luxor..Aswan/Cairo.
- Seven-night Nile cruise aboard Star Goddess, with accommodations in an outside cabin with private facilities.
- All meals aboard ship; breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner.
- Receptions, parties & entertainment aboard ship.
- Private Egyptologist guide/escort throughout.
- Complete program of tours as described.
- Complete pre-departure materials, including travel portfolio and bag tags.
- Cairo airport arrival and departure transfers and baggage handling.

**Not included:** International airfare, passport and visa expenses (A visa is required for Egypt. We will have one waiting for you when you arrive.); insurance; meals other than those specified above or in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and alcoholic beverages; gratuities to guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel.

THE FINE PRINT: Minimum participation requirements apply. This is a whole-ship charter. Bookings made directly through the cruise line cannot be honored. All prices are in US dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, and do not include fees, Gov't fees & taxes: \$647.00 pp additional. All taxes, surcharges and fees are subject to change at anytime, even after final payment. Prices include hotel, cruise, all shore excursions, onboard meals, beverages, gratuities, and all intra-Egypt transfers. Cabins sell quickly and all deals are subject to availability. Other restrictions may apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Registered Seller of Travel: Florida (Fla. Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST35169) and California (2064510-40). Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico residents, call 866-369-4567. Single supplement is 100% of rate.

## CONTACT US

**TOLL-FREE:** 1-866-523-7010

**HOURS:** 10am to 7pm Mon to Fri,

**MAIL:** 2905 N. Commerce Pkwy  
Miramar, FL 33025

**EMAIL:** [info@romancevoyages.com](mailto:info@romancevoyages.com)

**FAX:** 1-954-885-6001

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**ROMANCE VOYAGES** *intimate journeys for men*

**SHIP**

**TECHNICAL DATA:**

- Length 72.00m
- Width 14.00m
- Height 11.40m
- Water purification station. Water is filtered and softened before distribution
- Electricity 220 volt

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

- Complimentary bottle of local wine upon arrival
- Captain's welcome cocktail party
- Discotheque
- Guest talent show
- "Galabya" party
- Nubian folkloric show and daily quartet performance
- Nightly entertainment

**FACILITIES:**

- Main Dining Room - serves breakfast, lunch buffets and à la carte dinners
- Sun Deck Bar & Barbecue - overlooks the Nile, serves refreshing cocktails until sunset and barbecue specialties
- Lounge - serves light meals and a wide range of cocktails and beverages
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Jogging track on the sun deck
- Full-service spa (gym, massage rooms, sauna and Jacuzzi)
- Laundry service
- Medical service

**ACCOMMODATION:**

- Plasma TV (satellite channels and in-house movie programs)
- Wireless Internet connection
- Panoramic windows
- Private terrace
- Direct-line telephone
- Individual climate control
- Hairdryer
- Mini bar
- Safety deposit box
- All bathrooms are equipped with a full-size bathtub
- In-room dining is available until midnight



Sun Deck



Deck D



Deck C



Deck B



Deck A

<b>C</b> Chopin Suites (559 sq.ft.)	<b>Staff Area</b>
<b>B</b> Beethoven Suites (430 sq.ft.)	<b>Lobbies</b>
<b>M</b> Mozart Suites (376 sq.ft.)	<b>Restaurant</b>
<b>Cabin</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
<b>Corridors</b>	<b>Sundeck</b>
<b>Lounge</b>	



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Included in quoted Escorted Programs:** Prices include all accommodations as noted in the itinerary; meals as specified; arrival and departure transfers; fully guided sightseeing as noted in the itinerary (including park and entrance fees); bottled water supplied during sightseeing; selected beverages with group meals; services of an ROmanCEVOYAGES Tour Director\* (please see condition noted below); baggage handling of two pieces per person for international flights, other conditions/restrictions may apply for internal routes, please see under Baggage section; hotel taxes; gratuities throughout except to your Guides\*\* (please see separate section on Gratuities for more details).

Please note: \*\*Gratuities on Escorted Programs are included for hotel/restaurant staff, portage. Gratuities are not included for the local guides or drivers, which are at the travellers' discretion.

**Not included in quoted Escorted Program prices:** Passenger Travel Protection Program; international and internal airfares unless otherwise noted; cost of obtaining passports or entry visas; airport departure taxes unless otherwise noted; excess baggage charges; gratuities to the local guides/drivers on Escorted Programs, meals other than specified in the itinerary; beverages other than noted in your "Pre-Tour Documentation"; sightseeing not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability).

**Guaranteed Departures:** Departures are guaranteed, subject to a minimum number of passengers to operate (excepting only cases of force majeure, which could include any major world event that adversely affects international travel patterns and other circumstances beyond ROmanCEVOYAGES control). Should the minimum number of passengers not be met, ROmanCEVOYAGES will offer one of the following options: modify the services of the original tour to accommodate a smaller group or offer an alternative tour. Should no alternative be suitable, ROmanCEVOYAGES will offer a full refund of all monies paid.

Itineraries Accommodations (hotel) and arranged sightseeing are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond ROmanCEVOYAGES control. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Special Requests such as smoking/non-smoking, adjacent or connecting rooms and special dietary needs should be advised at time of booking. Please note that every effort will be made to secure your special request; however, these requests cannot be guaranteed. ROmanCEVOYAGES also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it to make such alterations in the itinerary or with the tour inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control.

**Prices and Arrangements:** Quoted program prices include planning, handling and operational charges, and are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes as of June 2005. ROmanCEVOYAGES reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes received after prices are published, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. All taxes, surcharges and fees are subject to change at anytime, even after final payment. ROmanCEVOYAGES is under no obligation to give breakdown costs involved in any Escorted tour. Modification of tour content to accommodate a smaller group size will not affect published tour price.

**Immediate Check-in:** When immediate check-in has not been included in the tour program price, ROmanCEVOYAGES does request that hotels do their utmost to facilitate this service; however, it is not guaranteed. Most hotels allow check-in to take place during the mid-afternoon. Should you wish to have your room ready for immediate check-in upon arrival ROmanCEVOYAGES can arrange this for an additional charge. Please ask for details and prices.

**Arrive Early:** ROmanCEVOYAGES recommends that you arrival a day or two before the start of your tour to allow time to relax and refresh after your journey and to prepare for the start of your program. ROmanCEVOYAGES has negotiated special overnight rates at the hotels contained within this tour. Ask for details.

**Active Elements:** Active elements have been incorporated into the itinerary. To enjoy the program as intended, a minimum level of fitness is required. Required level would be equivalent to what is obtained by routine daily exercise such as golf, jogging, energetic walking, tennis, etc. Activities during the program could include (but are not limited to) hiking, off road walking, walking on uneven steep cobbled streets, activities taking place in high altitude, off-road mountainous driving and navigating uneven terrain. ROmanCEVOYAGES, therefore, will require notice if any participant has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to himself or to other members of the tour. If the minimum level of fitness is not met for this tour, ROmanCEVOYAGES reserves the right to decline to accept anyone on the trip. ROmanCEVOYAGES also reserves the right to remove from the trip, at the participant's own expense, anyone whose condition is such that it could create a hazard to himself or others, or otherwise impact the enjoyment of other passengers on the trip. Should you have any questions or need any clarification about a specific tour please ask for details at time of booking.

**Baggage:** Tour prices include the handling of two pieces of baggage per person. Weight restrictions on some routes on internal air flights may apply; details will be provided with preliminary tour documentation. Baggage and personal effects are at owner's risk throughout the travel program. Please check with your international carrier for other baggage restrictions applicable to your international flights. ROmanCEVOYAGES Passenger Travel Protection Program, which provides cancellation coverage, medical coverage and protection against lost or damaged luggage, is not included in the tour price and it is strongly recommended.

**Passports and Visas:** Valid U.S. passports are required for travel to the destinations in this tour. Check with your travel agent or ROmanCEVOYAGES for the latest visa requirements. Please note that non-U.S. passport holders are responsible for obtaining the required documentation applicable for entry. Registration and Payment Schedule: For this tour, a deposit of \$750.00 per person

is required at the time of booking. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. If your reservation is made within 90 days of departure, the entire cost of the trip must be paid at the time of confirmation.

**Cancellation Charges:** Cancellations received by ROmanCEVOYAGES 90 days or more prior to departure will be subject to a \$100 per person/per tour cancellation fee; 89-60 days will be subject to 20% of the program price; 59-30 days will be 50% of program price; 29 days or less will be subject to 100% of program price.

**Cancellation Charges for Extra Services:** Additional hotel nights and other extra services booked in connection with ROmanCEVOYAGES programs are subject to: cancellations received 31 or more days prior to the service will be refunded in full; 30-15 days in advance will be charged 50% of the price; 14 or less days in advance will be charged 100% of the price.

**Air Transportation:** We will arrange the best-priced airfare available at the time of booking, in the class/category of your choice. Taxes are not included. All international and internal air quotes are subject to change and can carry penalties and surcharges, until final payment has been received by ROmanCEVOYAGES. Flight confirmation is based on availability. Fares are also available from other major U.S. cities. PLEASE NOTE THAT CERTAIN AIRFARES ARE SUBJECT TO A SERVICE FEE.

Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. These programs may use the services of any IATA carrier. International air carriers are subject to international air conventions limiting their liability. The limitations of liability are contained on the reverse side of the airline ticket and form part of the terms and conditions of this package. The passage contract in use by these companies, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these travel programs and/or passage.

**Claims and Refunds:** Refunds are not made for any missed services, except for verifiable extenuating circumstances. Please see our Limits on Responsibility on this page. For verifiable claims to be considered, they must be received in writing within 30 days of the termination of the program and be accompanied by supporting documentation and/or a statement from the Operating Company verifying the claim. Any adjustment considered will be based on the actual price of the services involved and not on a per diem basis. Adjustments will not be made for unused sightseeing trips or meals. ROmanCEVOYAGES will not accept any liability for any claims that are not received within 30 days of the termination of your travel program. All claims for days missed while travelling should be made in writing within 30 days of the termination of the program.

**Photography:** During Travel ROmanCEVOYAGES reserves the right to take photographs during the operation of any program or part thereof and to use them for promotional purposes. By booking a program with ROmanCEVOYAGES, program members agree to allow their images to be used in such photographs. Program members who prefer that their images not be used are asked to identify themselves to ROmanCEVOYAGES staff at the beginning of their program.

**Limits on ROmanCEVOYAGES Responsibility:** ROmanCEVOYAGES, its employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents and assigns, does not own or operate any entity that is to or does provide goods or services for your trip. It purchases transportation (by aircraft, coach, train, vessel or otherwise), hotel and other lodging accommodations, restaurant, ground handling and other services from various independent suppliers. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, ROmanCEVOYAGES is not liable for any negligent or willful act of any such person or entity or of any third person.

In addition and without limitation ROmanCEVOYAGES is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of God or force majeure, illness, disease, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

There are certain inherent risks in adventure travel of the type involved here. These include, but are not limited to, risks of whitewater rafting, kayaking and rafting (for example, dangers of rapidly moving water, rocks and other submerged objects, hypothermia, etc.), horseback riding (for example, unpredictable behavior by the horses, being spooked, etc.), hiking, walking safaris, downhill or cross country skiing (for example, equipment failures, ice or other trail obstructions), and in all trips dangers of animals, inaccessibility to medical attention and difficulty in evacuation from remote locations in the case of a medical emergency. Passenger assumes all such risks with regard to these possibilities.

**Travel Advisories and Warnings:** It is the responsibility of The Traveler to become informed about the most current travel advisories and warnings by referring to the U. S. State Department's travel Web site at [www.travel.state.gov/](http://www.travel.state.gov/) or by phone at 1-888-407-4747. In the event of an active State Department Travel Warning against travel to the specific destination location(s) of the trip, should The Traveler still choose to travel, notwithstanding any travel advisory or warning, The Traveler assumes all risk of personal injury, death or property damage that may arise out of the events like those advised or warned against.

**Arbitration Agreement:** Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to these Terms and Conditions, to the Responsibility Clause, to the brochure, or any information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Southern Florida, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent.

**Travelers Representations:** The Traveler represents that neither he nor she nor anyone traveling with him or her has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to himself or other members of the tour. ROmanCEVOYAGES reserves the right to decline to accept anyone on a trip. ROmanCEVOYAGES reserves the right to remove from the trip, at his or her sole expense, anyone whose condition is such that he or she could create a hazard to himself or others, or otherwise impact the enjoyment of other passengers on the trip.



# ROMANCE VOYAGES

*intimate journeys for men*

PAYMENT OF THE PROGRAM PRICE CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET OUT HEREIN AND IN MORE SPECIFIC PRE-DEPARTURE PASSENGER DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE RESERVATION CONFIRMATION FORM.

ROMANCE VOYAGES accepts all major credit cards.

Please note: We appreciate your understanding that this itinerary is subject to change and omission due to local circumstances (such as tides, weather and other local conditions, local holidays, museum/site closings, etc.); we may not be able to adhere to this plan in exact order or content.

Warning: It is forbidden to bring aboard or transport any "illegal substances." Failure to comply will result in immediate and permanent disembarkation from the ship by ship authority. Further local and international law enforcement penalties, including incarceration may occur. ROMANCE VOYAGES will not be held responsible for failure to comply with this rule.