Egyptian Perspectives
Ancient to Present
Among the most striking features of early-Egyptian painting are a subject’s eyes: never painted looking straight out at the viewer, but rather in profile, looking to one side or the other. Were those eyes looking at what has already happened or what is to come? Geographically and geopolitically pivotal, Egypt is at the crossroads of preserving the past and looking toward the future. At this unique moment in the continuum of Egypt’s history, explore one of the world’s most storied cultures through its historical, artistic and political perspectives, spanning ancient civilization to the present day. With a team that includes Los Angeles Times deputy editor Scott Kraft, an Egyptologist guide and guest speakers along the way, gain insight that will be informed by everything from the Great Wonders of the World and countless UNESCO World Heritage sites to explorations of post-Arab Spring contemporary culture. As you immerse yourself in this stunning culture, discover the wonders, both grand and intimate, and ponder the delicate balance of honoring what came before while also looking also toward what’s next.
**DAY 1**  Welcome to Egypt
Arrive in Cairo on individual flights, and transfer to your hotel near Giza.

**DAY 2**  Saqqara
This morning, visit the ancient burial ground complex of Saqqara, site of the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser, as well as the Bent Pyramid and pyramid of Unas. Then venture underground to the Serapeum of Saqqara, the magnificent burial site of the sacred Apis bulls. This evening, gather for a welcome reception and panel to hear social and political perspectives of Egyptian women, followed by a welcome dinner at your hotel. (B, R, D)

**DAY 3**  The Great Pyramid
After breakfast, you will be met by an Egyptologist who will provide insight on the rest of your expedition. Later, drive to the Giza plateau to view its three pyramids, including the Great Pyramid, the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the World, and the Great Sphinx. You will have the opportunity to step inside the Great Pyramid in addition to approaching all three pyramids from the back to get a unique vantage point. Then visit the Khufu Ship (known as the solar boat), an intact full-size vessel that dates to fourth-dynasty pharaoh Knufu, also known as Cheops. This evening is yours at leisure. (B, L)

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**EXPEDITION EXPERT**

**Amar El Far**
With a degree in Egyptology, Amal El Far is an Egyptologist who was born and raised in Cairo. In addition to multiple languages, she learned hieroglyphics, which tell the stories and secrets of the land and its people. As a girl, she was a synchronized swimmer on the national team of Egypt. She is passionate about sharing her detailed knowledge and welcomes you to explore her native country.
DAY 4  Abu Simbel

This morning, transfer to the Cairo airport for an internal flight to Abu Simbel. Though your time in Abu Simbel will be brief, viewing the Abu Simbel temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is an opportunity that cannot be missed. The two temples – the Great Sun Temple of Ramses II and the Temple of Queen Nefertari – are considered the masterpieces of ancient Egypt. These temples were moved from Aswan to Abu Simbel in the 1960s, when the construction of the Aswan High Dam (which you will visit on a subsequent day) in the 1960s threatened to submerge the temples. Transfer back to the airport for a brief flight to Aswan. Check in to the renowned Cataract hotel and enjoy high tea on the terrace at sunset before an evening at leisure. (B, Tea)

DAY 5  Nubian Culture

After breakfast at the hotel, take a wooden sailing boat called a felucca around Elephantine Island, which was the crossroads of ancient trading routes from Lower Egypt, the Western Desert and India. Stroll through the botanical gardens, home to more than 400 species of subtropical vegetation. Then continue your sail to the nearby Nubian Village, where you will be welcomed into the home of a local family for a cup of tea to learn about Nubian culture, which predates dynastic Egypt. Then transfer to the MS Tulip for lunch and embarkation. Later this afternoon, pay a visit to the Nubia Museum, which is dedicated to the origins, history and present of this indigenous culture and part of the UNESCO international campaign to preserve cultural artifacts that otherwise would have been destroyed due to flooding. Return to your ship for dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

DAY 6  Ancient and Modern Aswan

After breakfast, journey to the rescued Philae Temple, honoring Isis, the goddess of fertility. Then juxtapose visits to the Aswan High Dam – completed in the 1960s as a way to control flooding from the Nile and provide water storage for irrigation and hydroelectricity – and the unfinished obelisk, estimated to be more than 3,500 years old. Set sail at lunchtime as you begin your journey up the Nile. As the sun sets this evening, visit the Temple of Kom Ombo. This rare double temple was designed to be shared by the gods Sobek and Haeroris. This evening, participate in an onboard lecture that will help contextualize the massive impact of the Aswan High Dam construction on Egypt in the 1960s. Then enjoy dinner on your ship as you sail toward Edfu. (B, L, D)

DAY 7  The Horus Temple

Today, horse-drawn carriages – calèches – bring you to one of the best-preserved shrines and the second-largest temple in Egypt – the Horus Temple of Edfu. The construction of this temple, which combined Egyptian and Greek influences, began in 237 BC and wasn’t completed until almost 180 years later. The main building features Hypostyle Hall, the entrance to which – amazingly – still retains some pigment of its original reliefs. This evening, sail toward Esna, arriving in Luxor for an overnight stay on your ship. (B, L, D)

DAY 8  The Nile’s West Bank

After breakfast, disembark from your ship to explore the west bank of the Nile. Your first stop will be to the Valley of the Kings, the stunning royal burial ground for almost 500 years, during the 18th, 19th and 20th dynasties. In nearby Deir el-Bahri, visit the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of the most striking monuments in Egypt, celebrating the historic female ruler who posed as male to ascend the throne. Then view the Medinet Habu, a well-preserved temple on the west bank. It is remarkable for the amount of its original pigment still visible, and it is best-known for its inscribed reliefs of the battle of the “Sea Peoples.” Explore the ruins of the village of Deir el-Bahri, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where the artisans worked on the royal tombs during the New Kingdom era. This afternoon, check into your Luxor hotel. The rest of the day is yours at leisure to explore the Luxor Open Air Market – souk – or for individual pursuits. (B, L)
DAY 9  The Nile’s East Bank

Today is devoted to the temples of the Nile’s east bank. The largest of Luxor’s temples, Karnak was one of the most sacred sites in ancient Egypt. It marked the ascendancy of Thebes (present-day Luxor) as the capital of the New Kingdom, with construction beginning in the 16th century BC but continuing under myriad pharaohs, all of whom incorporated their own design influences into the original structure. You will also view the temple of Amun. Dedicated to the ancient Egyptian god of sun and air, it has the distinction of being the largest place of worship ever constructed. This evening, experience the beauty of Luxor Temple at night, followed by a festive reception and dinner. (B, R, D)

DAY 10  Farewell to Egypt

Before departing Luxor, explore the beautifully curated Luxor Museum, which overlooks the Nile. Though small, the museum boasts an impressive collection of artifacts, including the royal mummies of Ahmose I and Ramses I, which were added in 2004. After a short flight to Cairo, check in to your hotel. This afternoon, participate in a panel discussion moderated by your L.A. Times journalist as you consider Egypt’s place in, and influence on, the world stage moving forward. This evening is yours at leisure to unwind or explore Cairo on your own. (B)

ACCOMMODATIONS

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<th>NIGHTS</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marriott Mena House</td>
<td>Besides views of Giza’s pyramids, the five-star Mena House features lavish gardens, multiple restaurants and lounges, a heated swimming pool and a health club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan</td>
<td>This iconic five-star property, modeled on a 19th century Victorian palace, has played host to dignitaries and luminaries during its storied history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MS Tulip</td>
<td>The newly refurbished MS Tulip boasts luxurious and spacious cabins, a large sun deck with a swimming pool, and a health club.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel, Luxor</td>
<td>Built in 1886 on the banks of the Nile and surrounded by royal gardens, this five-star desert jewel is steeped in history and centrally located.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hilton Cairo Heliopolis</td>
<td>The five-star Heliopolis Hotel, located in the presidential quarter of Cairo, provides dining and wellness amenities in addition to convenient airport accessibility.</td>
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DAY 11  Departure

Depart on individual flights home or onward. Complimentary airport shuttles depart hourly. (B)

EXPEDITION EXPERT

Scott Kraft

As deputy managing editor, Scott Kraft is responsible for the front page, the Column One feature and major investigative, explanatory and narrative reporting projects. During more than two decades at The Times, Kraft has been a national and foreign correspondent as well as a news department head. He joined the paper as a staff writer in its Chicago bureau and later was bureau chief in Nairobi, Johannesburg and Paris. After a decade abroad, Kraft moved to Los Angeles and became deputy Foreign editor. A year later, he was named National editor, overseeing national correspondents and the Washington bureau. Kraft returned to writing in 2008 and helped anchor coverage of the earthquake in Haiti. He became the Page One editor in 2011 and was named deputy managing editor in August 2012. He came to The Times from the Associated Press, where he was a national correspondent based in New York and a 1984 Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing. He has been a two-time Pulitzer Prize judge and was chair of the Public Service jury in 2015.
DATES & PRICING

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<td>Nov. 11-21, 2019</td>
<td>$6,295*</td>
<td>$1,595</td>
<td>$500</td>
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*Includes all internal flights: Cairo-Abu Simbel, Abu-Simbel-Aswan, Luxor-Cairo, as well as the cruise from Aswan to Luxor.

LAND COST

Prices are listed in U.S. dollars and are based on a person sharing a room with another. Although we do our best to maintain the listed price, because our prices are set over a year in advance, we reserve the right to increase costs due to circumstances beyond our control, tariffs, taxes and VAT received after prices are published and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. The land cost is based on a minimum number of guests as described on the trip page.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Comprehensive educational program by content experts and professional on-site guides
All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
All ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
Entrance fees
Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides for all included arrangements
The assistance of an ATA expedition manager for comprehensive logistical and customer service management on the expedition
Wireless listening devices
The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights or other services
Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the expedition, including a suggested reading list
Transfers to and from airports for those arriving or departing according to the designated itinerary (exceptions may apply)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

U.S. domestic or international airfare or other transportation from your home to the departure point of the trip and from the end point of the trip to your home
Travel and trip cancellation insurance
Passport, visa, airport departure and baggage fees
Meals not specified in the itinerary, and food and beverages not part of the included meals
Personal items such as telephone, fax and internet charges, laundry, room service and alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included
Gratuities for non-group services
Expenses you may incur resulting from delays due to bad weather, road conditions, sickness, government action and flight delays
Expenses incurred in making individual travel arrangements in conjunction with the trip, and sightseeing not included in the itinerary

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(Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. PT)

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