

OPTIONAL EGYPT EXTENSION

4 days | Explore the Pyramids and Cruise the Nile

Enjoy a 3-day excursion to Egypt to explore the Sinai Peninsula and ancient sites of Cairo. Cross a few bucket list items off with a tour of the amazing Giza Pyramid Complex and old Egyptian Museum. Plus, you will get to explore St. Catherine's Monastery and watch the sun rise at Mount Sinai.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Head to the Egypt

Following the culinary tour of the market, head to the Taba border with your driver and guide to cross in to Egypt.

Check in to St Catherine's Monastery where dinner will be provided. We suggest you retire early to bed as early the next morning you will awake to climb Mt. Sinai.

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Mount Sinai

For those of you who wish to do so, awaken very early this morning to ascend Mt. Sinai with a local Bedouin guide for sunrise. A truly unique and spectacular moment!

Mousa Mountain is the name of a collection of peaks, sometimes referred to as the Holy Mountains. The Mountain was called Mount Sinai, or "the mount of God" possibly before the time of Moses, according to Josephus. Mount Mousa is about 7,495 feet (2,285 meters) high and it takes approximately 3 hours to ascend on foot. At a number of locations along the route, there are vendors & many cafeterias where you can buy water, food and other items.

After enjoying the sun rise, you will start to descend Mount Mousa and return back to your hotel for breakfast.

Drive to Cairo making stops along the way at **Raphedim**, **Elim** and **Marah** places visited by the Israelites in the biblical account of the Exodus from Egypt. It is a stunning way to see this part of the country outside the touristy center, and observe the local way of living.

Dinner will be provided at the hotel this evening.

DAY 3: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Cairo

After breakfast at the hotel head out for a full day of explorations. Start first with a visit to the **Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx**, an archaeological site on the Giza Plateau, on the outskirts of the city. This complex of ancient monuments includes the three pyramid complexes known as the Great Pyramids, the massive sculpture known as the Great Sphinx, several cemeteries, a workers' village, and an industrial complex.

Explore the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization** {NMEC} a large museum in the ancient city of Fustat, now part of Cairo, Egypt. The museum has a collection of 50,000 artefact's, presenting Egyptian civilization from prehistoric times to the present day.

You will have time to stop for lunch this afternoon (own expense).

Continue to **Coptic Cairo**, where we will visit the famous Suspended Church (Hanging Church), dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. This basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Continue to the Church of St. Sergius, a 5th century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the **Holy Family** stayed.

Wrap up your tour with a **dinner cruise on the Nile River**.





DAY 4: SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Fly home

Say farewell to Egypt today. Check out of the hotel and transfer to the Cairo airport for your flight back to the U.S.

ACCOMMODATIONS

You will have the unique opportunity to stay at the Monastery Guest House which is just below the monastery and offers single or double occupancy rooms with private facilities. They have a spacious courtyard with an adjoining snack bar where one can order coffee, tea, soft drinks, and other refreshments. <http://www.sinaimonastery.com/index.php/en/the-pilgrimage/guest-house>



Concord El Salem by Golden Tulip 4 star hotel.

Just a 25-minute drive from City Center, Concorde El Salam Hotel Cairo is 3.7 mi from fashionable Heliopolis suburb. It features 8 restaurants, 2 outdoor pools, and private stables. The rooms include flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi.

All rooms at Concorde El Salam come with floor-to-ceiling windows opening to a private balcony with garden or pool views. Each room has an private bathroom. Hotel Concorde El Salam has 8 restaurants, ranging from Italian Restaurant to Abou Aouf Restaurant serving Egyptian and Lebanese dishes. Live open-air performances can be enjoyed at La Veranda restaurant.



PROGRAM INFO

Date & Length: 4 days, September 11-14, 2023

Extension cost: \$1,399 per person. *Single supplement:* \$299

Inclusions: Hotel, tours and meals as mentioned; portage at hotel, visa and border crossing fees, drinks at meals, local guide in Egypt and airport transfer for departure flight.

Not Included: Tips to your guide, driver or maids at your hotel, meals not mentioned and hotel incidentals like laundry or room service.