

Your Tour Includes

The tour price includes all air and land travel costs involved in the itinerary, including return economy airfares via Singapore Airlines from Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane/Adelaide/Perth to Cairo. Also included are all admission fees to sites visited as a group. First class, twin-share hotel accommodation is provided, with private bathroom. All breakfasts and dinners on the tour are included, as well as hotel tips, portorage, visas and airport taxes while with the group. All travel costs outside the itinerary are the responsibility of the applicant. Cost of drinks (including bottled water), passports, travel insurance, all photographic expenses, (including camera tickets where applicable) and personal items are *not* included.

The itinerary is subject to change as circumstances may make necessary, and extra costs for such changes are the passenger's responsibility. Prices quoted are based on air fares, taxes and foreign exchange as at 1 June 2008 and are subject to change. No refund can be made for any services offered on the itinerary but not used. Travel insurance should be taken out once a deposit has been paid.

Our Travel Agent

Our travel agent in Australia is Harvey World Travel (Toronto)
64 The Boulevard,
Toronto NSW 2283
Phone: 02 4959 8666, Fax: 02 4950 5869
Lic No. 2TA 4798.



Extra Travel

Should you wish to extend your journey into Africa, Europe or Round the World, or add a stopover in Dubai or Bangkok, please contact Harvey World Travel Toronto who will be able to assist with any flights, tours, cruises, accommodation or car hire. You also have the option to upgrade your airfare from Economy Class to Business or First class. For full details and conditions on the airfare, please contact Harvey World Travel Toronto on 02 4959-8666 or toronto@harveyworld.com.au. All additional travel is at your expense and not included in the tour price.

Prices from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth (all prices subject to modification before departure)

Middle East Tour Price

\$10,827.40* Single supplement **\$2,100**

Archaeological Dig

\$990 Single supplement **\$450**

Part Tour

If you cannot take the whole tour, then join us for part of the tour. We can provide an itinerary to fit in with your schedule. Prices available on application.

* Includes international airfare from Australia.

Although our tour departs from Australia we welcome international travellers. Meet us in Cairo and join our tour for the experience of a lifetime. Contact us for further information.

Reserve Your Place Now!

Our tour groups are small and friendly. Since places on the tour are limited, you are advised to make your plans early and contact us as soon as possible. A deposit of \$150* is required with your application, along with a photocopy of the front page of your passport. Full payment is required ten weeks before departure. Please phone/write/email for more information. Our brochure containing tips about money, what to pack and travelling in the Middle East is available for anyone and is sent to all applicants.

*Until 31/12/2008 the deposit is refundable less a \$20 admin fee. After this date the deposit is non-refundable.

Please make cheques payable to DIGGINGS MAGAZINE

All prices quoted in Australian dollars.

Enquiries

PO Box 196 Morisset NSW 2264

Free-call: 1800 240 543 | **Fax:** 02 9012 0882

Email: editor@diggings.com.au



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGGINGS

Go with someone who knows the way!

Join us for the journey of a lifetime!

The Annual

Middle East Tour

Spend 21 thrilling days visiting the pyramids, the sphinx, the temples and tombs of Luxor and Abu Simbel, Tutankhamen's treasures, the mummies of the Pharaohs, Petra, Jerash, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee and so much more!

21 April – 14 May 2009

Depart from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth

24 days touring The Middle East

www.diggings.com.au

Proposed Itinerary – Middle East Tour 2009



Tuesday April 21

Depart 5:35 pm on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 234 from Sydney for Cairo via Singapore. Flights from Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth at no extra cost. International travellers can join us in Cairo for the land price only. Price on application.

Wednesday April 22

Depart from the airport and travel by a/c coach to the Pharaonic Village where ancient Egypt comes to life. See the replica of Tutankhamun's tomb. Next, to the Cairo hotel to check in and have lunch. In the afternoon visit the Cairo Museum with its fabulous collection of treasures from tombs and temples, and see the mummies of the great Pharaohs of Egypt.

Thursday April 23

To the Sphinx, then the three great pyramids of Giza and the ancient re-assembled funeral boat of Khufu. On to the Step Pyramid of Saqqara. Then visit Memphis, the capital of Ancient Egypt. In the evening see the impressive Sound and Light show at the Giza Pyramids.

Friday April 24

Over the desert by coach to the Faiyum, Egypt's largest oasis, then the 12th dynasty pyramid of Hawarra, built with mud bricks and straw. On to Kahun, a 3,500 year old city where Israelite slaves were employed. Visit the pyramid of Meidum. Visit a papyrus factory.

Saturday April 25

FREE DAY IN CAIRO

Sunday April 26

Flight to Luxor, visit the Temple of Luxor and in the afternoon the massive temple of Karnak with its huge hypostyle columns, obelisks and reliefs.

Monday April 27

See the Colossi of Memnon and the Temple of Medinet Habu. Visit an alabaster factory and the Temple of Hatshepsut, and on to the Valley of the Kings. Then to the Ramesseum, the funeral temple of Rameses the Great.

Tuesday April 28

Day trip by a/c coach to the temple of Sethi I at Abydos with its historic "king list", the Osireion and the temple of Sethi I's son, Rameses II. In the afternoon to the temple of Dendera to see the zodiac ceiling and the relief of Cleopatra. Return to Luxor.

Wednesday April 29

By coach to the huge temple of Edfu and the crocodile temple of Kom Ombo. At Aswan visit the Temple of Philae, the granite quarries, and the unfinished obelisk of Hatshepsut. Overnight Aswan.

Thursday April 30

By coach to the Temple of Abu Simbel, cut out of the cliff face for Rameses II. Return to Cairo by Egypt Air.

Friday May 1

Early flight from Cairo to Amman. From the airport by bus to Jerash, one of the great cities of the Decapolis. Walk through the forum and cardo, see Hadrian's Arch and the Hippodrome, the North and South theatre's and the great temple of Artemis.

Saturday May 2

FREE DAY IN AMMAN.

Sunday May 3

By coach to Petra. Walk, or ride a horse to the Siq, through the clefts in the rock that lead into the rose red city of Petra. See Al-Khazna (The Treasury) cut out of the cliff face, the theatre, or climb to the High Place.

Monday May 4

Second Day in Petra. Wander at your leisure through Petra a second time and see the places there was not time to visit the first day. Suggestions could be the Second High Place, the Byzantine church, climb to Al Dayr (The Monastery) or Umm Al Biyara.

Tuesday May 5

North to the Dead Sea and the hot pools where Herod eased his aching limbs. Cross over the Jordan River into Israel, up to Jerusalem. Visit the Mount of Olives for a superb view of the Temple Arena, then the Garden of Gethsemane and Mount Zion.

Wednesday May 6

Through the Damascus Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, then along the Via Dolorosa to the Pool of Bethesda and on to the Western Wall. Visit the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel.

Thursday May 7

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, then the Herodion where Ehud Netzer recently found the tomb of Herod. In the afternoon to the Garden Tomb and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display. The Israel Museum is closed.

Friday May 8

Down the road to Jericho, then to Qumran and the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Take a swim in the Dead Sea where you cannot sink, then explore the ruins of Masada.

Saturday May 9

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM. You may wish to visit the Great Synagogue with us.

Sunday May 10

Along the highway to Caesarea, Herod's harbour city. Herod's harbour was a world wonder. See his recently excavated hippodrome and palace, and the inscription of Pontius Pilate. On to Megiddo of Armageddon fame, the baptismal site on the Jordan River, and an enjoyable stay in a hotel overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Monday May 11

Sail across the Sea of Galilee for a tour of the kibbutz at Ein Gev to see how a kibbutz functions. Circle the lake, stopping at Kursi and the fortress city of Hazor before returning to see the boat from Jesus' day excavated from the bottom of the lake near Ginnosar. On to the synagogue at Capernaum, the church of the loaves and fishes at Tabgha and the church of the Beatitudes.

Tuesday May 12

The wedding village of Cana, then to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and walk through the bazaar. Explore Beth Shearim's burial catacombs. Those going on to the dig will transfer to the dig accommodation, while the others return to Jerusalem and stay at a hotel overnight before leaving for the airport early next morning.

Wednesday May 13

Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for an early flight to Singapore via Istanbul.

Thursday May 14

Depart Singapore for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth. (Times will vary slightly according to destination—details on enquiry).

Be an Archaeologist

As an optional extra, join the Diggings team and become an archaeologist for a week.

Wednesday May 13 - Tuesday May 19

Work on our own dig site each day (except Saturday which is a public holiday in Israel). Accommodation at a Kibbutz, breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus transport to and from the dig site, are provided. Some side trips may be organised depending on interest. The dig cost includes all dig fees, accommodation, meals, transfers, transport and extra sightseeing.

Wednesday May 20

Early morning transfer to Tel Aviv airport for your flight to Singapore via Istanbul. (Stopover in Istanbul and/or Singapore can be arranged). Depart Singapore for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth.