



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGGINGS

Go with someone who knows the way!

THE ANNUAL Middle East Tour

Spend 23 thrilling days visiting the pyramids, the sphinx, the temples and tombs of Egypt, Abu Simbel, Tutankhamun's treasures, the mummies of the Pharaohs, Petra, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee and so much more!



Join us for the journey of a lifetime!

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 at the hotel are included, as well as hotel tips, portage, 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 January 2010 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 4032 7828, 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 Singapore, 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 4032 7828 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

\$9,450* Single supplement **\$1,750**

Archaeological Dig

\$1,350 Single supplement **\$300**

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 30/11/2009 the deposit is refundable less a \$50 admin fee. After this date the deposit is non-refundable.

Please make cheques payable to DIGGINGS MAGAZINE

All prices quoted in Australian dollars.

Enquiries

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Email: editor@diggings.com.au

11 April – 3 May 2010

Depart from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth

23 days touring The Middle East

www.diggings.com.au

Sunday April 11 – Tour Day 1

Depart 4:25 pm on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 222 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.

Monday April 12 – Tour Day 2

Depart from the airport and travel by air-conditioned coach to the pyramids of Seneferu at Dahshur. Explore inside the Red Pyramid. Walk around the Bent Pyramid. See the remains of the temple at the side and see the Queens Pyramid behind it. In the afternoon visit the Pharaonic Village where ancient Egypt comes to life. See the fantastic replica of Tutankhamun's tomb. Overnight – Cairo.

Tuesday April 13 – Tour Day 3

Day trip in our air-conditioned coach to the Faiyum. First, visit the pyramid build by pharaoh Seneferu at Meidum. Continue over the desert to the Faiyum, Egypt's largest oasis, then to the 12th dynasty pyramid of Hawarra, built with mud bricks and straw. Explore the second 12th dynasty pyramid at el Lahoun then explore Kahun, a 3,500 year old city where Israelite slaves were employed. Overnight – Cairo.

Wednesday April 14 – Tour Day 4

Start the day with a visit to the Step Pyramid at Saqqara. See also the mastaba of the vizier Mereruka with its fabulous scenes of everyday life. Then visit Memphis, the capital of the Old Kingdom period. On to the three great pyramids at Giza and the ancient re-assembled funeral boat of Khufu. You will have the opportunity to explore inside at least one of these pyramids. Then to the Sphinx. In the evening see the impressive Sound and Light show at the Giza pyramids. Overnight – Cairo.

Thursday April 15 – Tour Day 5

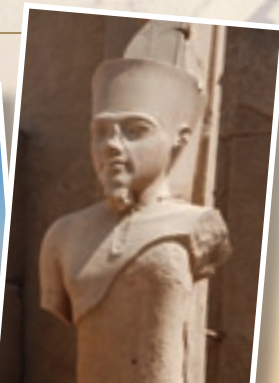
Early flight with Egypt Air to Luxor to see the Temple of Luxor with its beautiful avenue of sphinxes and impressive columns. See the reliefs depicting Alexander the Great. Next, on to the huge temple of Karnak with its colossal statues. See the inscriptions and reliefs of Thutmosis III and Rameses II, the obelisk of Hatshepsut and the sacred pool. Transfer to our hotel. Overnight – Luxor.

Friday April 16 – Tour Day 6

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. Visit three royal tombs plus the tomb of Tutankhamun. The last stop for the day is the Ramesseum, the funeral temple of Rameses the Great. Overnight – Luxor.

Saturday April 17 – Tour Day 7

FREE DAY IN LUXOR. Overnight – Luxor.

**Sunday April 18 – Tour Day 8**

Travel in our own air-conditioned coach to the huge temple of Edfu and the crocodile temple of Kom Ombo. At Aswan visit the Temple of Philae and the granite quarry to see the unfinished obelisk of Hatshepsut. Overnight – Aswan.

Monday April 19 – Tour Day 9

Travel with the early convoy by coach to the Temple of Abu Simbel, cut out of the cliff face for Rameses II. Finish the day sailing in a Felucca on the Nile. Overnight – Aswan.

Tuesday April 20 – Tour Day 10

Return to Cairo flying Egypt Air. In the afternoon visit the Egyptian Museum with its fabulous collection of treasures from tombs and temples, and see the mummies of the great Pharaohs of Egypt. Overnight – Cairo.

Wednesday April 21 – Tour Day 11

In our air-conditioned coach, follow in the footsteps of the Exodus to the Red Sea. Cross under the Suez Canal, to the Taba border crossing to Israel, through Eilat and Aqaba then on to Petra. Overnight – Petra.

Thursday April 22 – Tour Day 12

Walk, or ride a horse to the Siq, through the clefts in the rock that lead into the rose red city of Petra. See El Gazneh, the temple cut out of the cliff face, the theatre, if energetic climb to the High Place. Overnight – Petra.

Friday April 23 – Tour Day 13

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. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Saturday April 24 – Tour Day 14

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Sunday April 25 – Tour Day 15

Through the Damascus Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, then along the Via Dolorosa to the Pool of Bethesda and on to the Western Wall. Visit the City of David and walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Monday April 26 – Tour Day 16

Visit the Herodion where Ehud Netzer found the tomb of Herod and see the current excavation of the theatre. See the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. In the afternoon to the Garden Tomb, Gordon's Calvary and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display. See the model of the Old City of Jerusalem complete with a model of the temple. The Israel Museum may still be closed – to be confirmed. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Tuesday April 27 – Tour Day 17

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. Visit the wedding village of Cana, then to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation.

On to Megiddo of Armageddon fame and walk through the cistern, then baptismal site on the Jordan River. Enjoy a stay in our luxury hotel overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Overnight – Tiberius.

**Wednesday April 28 – Tour Day 18**

Sail across the Sea of Galilee to the kibbutz at Ein Gev. Circle the lake, to the synagogue at Capernaum. Continue on to visit Dan and Caesarea Philippi. Explore the fortress city of Hazor before returning to see the boat from Jesus' day excavated from the bottom of the lake near Ginnosar. Overnight – Tiberius.

Thursday April 29 – Tour Day 19

Visit the city of Sepphoris and see the wonderful mosaics. Next to Beth Shearim's burial catacombs and then on to Mount Carmel where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. Return to Jerusalem. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Friday April 30 – Tour Day 20

Down the road to Jericho. Next to Qumran and the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. On to explore the ruins of King Herod's fortress city at Masada. The last stop for the day, have a relaxing float in the Dead Sea where you cannot sink. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Saturday May 1 – Tour Day 21

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM. Overnight – Jerusalem.

Sunday May 2 – Tour Day 22

Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for an early flight to Singapore via Istanbul. (Those staying on for the dig will depart Jerusalem for the dig site and accommodation)

Monday May 3 – Tour Day 23

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.

Sunday May 2 – Friday May 7

Work on our own dig site each day. Accommodation at a Kibbutz. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus transport to and from the dig site, are provided. Return to Jerusalem Friday May 7.

Saturday May 8

Free day in Jerusalem. Overnight – Jerusalem

Sunday May 9

Early morning transfer to Tel Aviv airport for your flight to Singapore via Istanbul.

Monday May 10

Depart Singapore for Australia.