

FRANCE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

World Leader in Small



Group Travel in France

Off the Beaten Path celebrates 30 years in 2024 offering guided, small group luxury tours to France
AND Now introducing our Exclusive, Limited Edition Egypt Tour!

WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>

A PHARAONIC ADVENTURE UNDER THE EGYPTIAN SUN!

11-DAY EGYPT TOUR

For the adventurer at heart, who wants to make the most of their time on earth and desires to explore the hidden gems and mysteries of the ancients in luxury and style through the eyes of my Egyptian family and friends!

This 11-Day tour is for the spirited explorer and discerning traveler who loves a lavish but fun, authentic and once in a lifetime experience!

Let's make the most of these powerfully transformative times and go adventuring together! The magic and mystique of Egypt is something that has to be felt first-hand and can never be accurately captured in words or photos! So put on your Indiana Jones hat and pack your bags for the time of your life.

Spaces are very limited but would be perfect for a friend group of couples or for the solo traveler who wants to meet others who share their passion for other worldly experiences!



EXPERIENCE: INSPIRING ITINERARIES - EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY - EXCELLENT VALUE!



Off the Beaten Path France Tours are Recommended by Best Selling Author PJ Adams, as her TOUR OF CHOICE to Discover the France!!

Come seize the opportunity to discover Egypt with us through the eyes of our Egyptian friends, and under the professional leadership of my dear French-Egyptian friend and colleague, Hela!



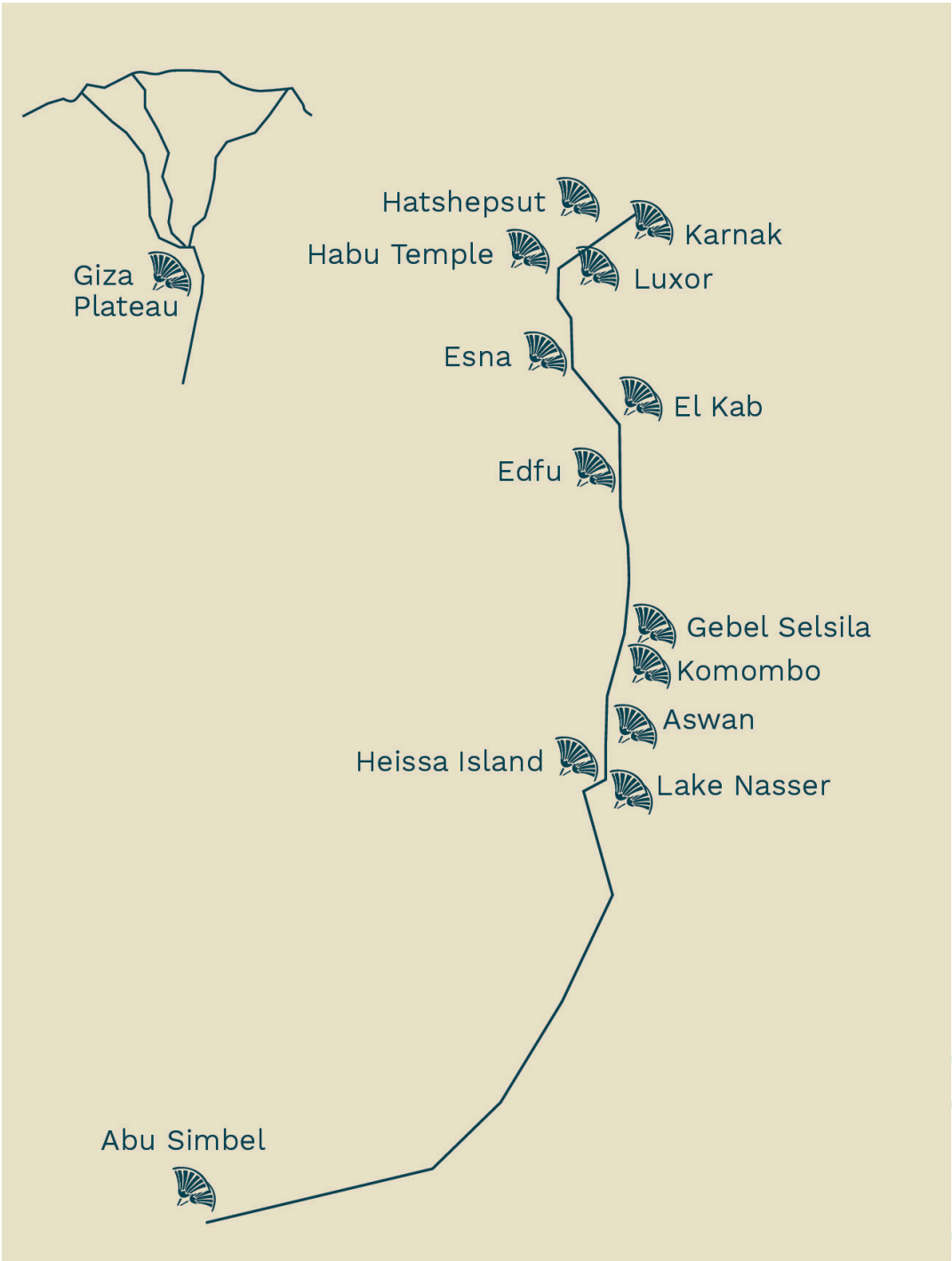
- FRANCE OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOURS IS PART-

NERED WITH TRUSTPILOT, an independent review website to collect “independent” traveler reviews about our tours of Provence, Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne, Normandy, and Egypt!

Read candid “independent” tour reviews! [TRUSTPILOT TOUR REVIEWS](#)

- In 2024, we celebrate 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE leading our small group tours in France.
- Our exclusive relationships with every one of our vendors in France makes our tours truly the trip of a lifetime!
- The most popular small group tours in France, we include “insider” experiences that other tour companies cannot offer.
- Our tours sell out year after year thanks to our exclusive benefits, exceptional quality, and excellent value.
- We are proud to be named travelers #1 choice for group travel for two decades!

WEBSITE - <https://www.traveloffthebeatenpath.com>



ENJOY AUTHENTIC *Egyptian* EXPERIENCES -- ALL-INCLUSIVE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- From the moment you step off the airplane at Cairo Airport until check-in for your return flight home at the conclusion of the tour, we take you under our wings. From the time you arrive until the time you depart, we take care of every detail, and as our guest, your time is spent enjoying the very best Egypt has to offer and having the time of your life on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- Full-time services of Hela and Christy, specialty guides, Egyptologists and archeologist throughout the tour.
- **Our personalized “unannounced” visits and unique “only available to our guests” experiences during the tour that make it truly an unparalleled and exclusive Egyptian experience.**
- **“ULTIMATE in LUXURY” Experience tour dates:** 10 nights, All-Inclusive Tour featuring a combination of suites at luxury hotels and ultimate luxury “glamping” on our friend’s private island in the cataracts of the Nile in Aswan (A truly once-in-a-lifetime experience) and 4 nights on privately chartered, luxury dahabeya (privately chartered luxury boat exclusively for our group with 6-8 cabins) for Nile cruise portion of the trip..
- **“BUDGET CONSCIOUS - SEMI-LUXURY” Experience tour dates:** 10 nights, All-Inclusive Tour featuring Exceptional Boutique Hotels, Semi-private, Chartered Dahabeya (Smaller Shared/Semi-private Boat with 6-10 cabins).
- **ALL TOUR DATES:** 29 Meals - ALL-INCLUSIVE - All meals throughout, from dinner on day 1 ending with breakfast on day 11
- Lunches and dinners feature the finest Egyptian cuisine throughout at our favorite local restaurants, at Hela’s home, homes of local friends, with a local archeologist, aboard our dahabeya, picnic on a felucca, and meals in exceptional off the beaten path Egyptian settings only available to us.
- All transportation throughout the tour from Day 1 arrival to Day 11 departure
- All transfers with air-conditioned modern touristic cars for all transportation throughout the tour
- Services of our personally selected Accredited Guides, Egyptologists and Archeologist every day of the tour
- Guided Visits : Pyramids – Sphinx – Sakkara , Memnon – Museum, Old Cairo – Habu, Valley of the kings – Hatshepsut Temple – Deir El Medina, Luxor Temple – Karnak Temple – Gabal El Silsila – Kom Ombo Temple, Unfinished Obelisk – Souk Aswan – Philae Temple, Abu Simbel Temple(short roundtrip flight from Aswan)
- Visit a Limited Access archeological site with a world famous archaeologist and we’ll also enjoy dinner at home with him.
- All entrance fees and specialty guide fees
- Personal Meet & Greet Welcome at Cairo Airport to assist you with your visa on arrival, passage through customs and baggage collection.
- All domestic flights detailed in itinerary
- All Gratuities to guides, drivers, dahabiya crew.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE -- Services not mentioned in our program

- International roundtrip flight from your home to Cairo, Egypt
- Optional excursions/tours pre- and/or post tour, hot air ballooning, Additional hotel overnights pre- and/or post tour
- Personal expenses such as international calls, room-service, additional meals beyond those included in itinerary, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages at hotels, laundry service, souvenirs.

Dietary Requests & Food Allergies -- We accommodate ALL dietary requests (including vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, etc) and ALL food allergies (gluten, shellfish, etc) while ensuring an amazing foodie experience for all tour guests with restrictions and/or allergies.

HELA'S BIO ...

Born in Massachusetts to Egyptian parents, I was 10 1/2 years old when we returned to live in Egypt. I arrived with a very negative outlook on life here. But then I got my first taste of freedom when I took a taxi for the first time in Cairo and began to discover the city. I learned over the years that there was so much more to Cairo than the pyramids. I explored a lot of the different neighborhoods and fell in love with the architecture, the dynamic of the bustling streets, and the history ever-present throughout the city. After university, I moved to El Gouna, along the Red Sea, to work as a development manager. But Cairo kept calling me back, and every time I returned, I would discover and venture into a new neighborhood. With each returning visit, I began to learn more about the city's history. Deeply exploring Cairo lit a fire in my belly to become a guide. When friends and family came to visit, I shared more than what you see on the surface walking through the city. I wanted everyone to see the side of Cairo that so few know about and that I had uncovered over the years.

But my future as a guide in Egypt would get put on hold when I met a French winemaker in El Gouna, married him, and moved to France. Instead of Egypt, I started a guiding business in Bordeaux, and built my life around it; sharing the history of my adopted city with travelers from around the world. In my heart, however, I knew I would one day come back to Egypt to guide in some capacity. Becoming the first accredited Egyptian woman guide in the Bordeaux region laid the groundwork to establish me as an independent and reputable business-woman in France. Once this happened, I felt the time had arrived to seize the opportunity to rekindle my dream of guiding in my home country.

Today, I split my time between my homes in France and Egypt. Come winter, I trade my trench coat and rain boots, for a cotton gallabeyah: destination the sun and colors of Egypt. Invigorated by the kindness of the Nile, I open the doors to all the hidden facets of this ancient country. I invite you to live a unique experience in the south of Egypt, far from bustling Cairo and its masses of tourists: you will have unforgettable encounters in breathtaking places.

As a native Egyptian Arabic speaker with a deep knowledge of my country's history, I love taking travelers by the hand to show them the diversity of Egypt. The country is Pharaonic, Coptic, and Islamic, but not only. With me, you will visit the tribes of Nubia where the people speak languages passed down from generation to generation. I love taking travelers deep into the local culture to demystify the long-standing generalizations stigmatizing my country. Learning about the connection with ancient Egyptian mythology throughout my tours transforms each day into something new and magical. We're visiting people and places welcomed as friends thanks to my established reputation granting me exclusive access. From shopping in the Suks, swimming in salt lakes, exploring the Pyramids and historic sites like Karnak and Dendara to venturing into the desert and cruising on the Nile, my goal is for people to gain a genuine understanding of Egypt and to have a positive experience.



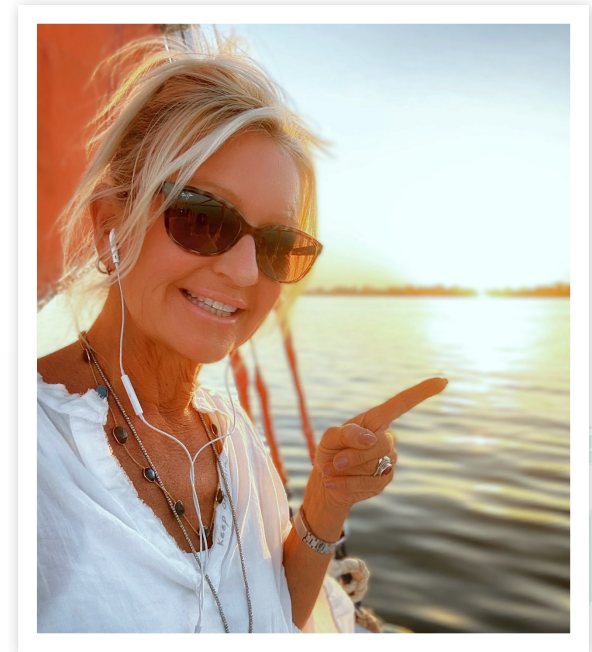
CHRISTY'S BIO ...

I'm American with French citizenship since 2003 and call Bordeaux, France home. My life in France began 30 years ago when I first stepped foot on French soil with my freshly acquired degrees in hand from San Diego State University. Having sold my belongings except what I could fit into a single suitcase, I hopped on a plane to Provence, France following graduation. "My dream? To live a dream." Equipped with an extensive education in Political Science, French history, language, and international relations, and my heart full of passion for and knowledge of this historically and culturally rich country, I dove into French life head first, and never looked back. Soon after my arrival, I would discover that working as a non-European citizen in France presented many challenges, but I persevered and transformed my experience into something positive and fruitful. It's a great source of pride to contribute, as an immigrant, to my adopted country of France by bringing hundreds of groups to visit this magnificent country I call home.

With an idea, a guide license, and my programming skills, I launched Off the Beaten Path, LLC. I published my first website showcasing multi-day tours with all the trimmings of appeal to share my favorite regions of France with travelers. I dedicated every waking minute to establishing my internet presence on google and yahoo which at the time was a new frontier of its own. I rode the waves of uncertainty every start-up faces, and as an entrepreneur, I rode those waves alone. As a woman breaking into a male-dominated industry, I was determined to succeed. During the years of building my business, I never missed a summer vacation with my kids, birthday celebrations, or family holidays. Steadfast on my new path in life, I forged ahead with my ideas, turning my dream into reality on my terms. Three months after going live with my first website, I sold my first tours, and today 27 years later, my passion continues to flourish as a million-dollar-plus operation.

Thanks to my network of French friends combined with actively living in country, my team and I bring French culture to life. We design and deliver once-in-a-lifetime adventures for Anglophone travelers from around the world. As our guest, you spend time with the people who make this magical country special, and are welcomed into my French friends' homes, workshops, and kitchens to discover the true essence of their culture. You learn the history and thrilling anecdotes that transform each tour day into a fun journey into the past. You spend your six day tour with us in a true small group welcomed as friends.

Prominent travel magazines and fellow guides recognize Christy Destremau as a leading France travel expert. Her tours are regularly featured in prominent travel magazines, as well as being included in Frommer's France Guide and Best of France Guide. Best selling travel author PJ Adams and Christy also co-authored a Loire Valley, France guidebook Intoxicating Greater Paris - Loire, Valley of the Kings, and she has been featured in FORBES, as an up and coming female entrepreneur.



EGYPT TOUR - A PHARAONIC ADVENTURE UNDER THE EGYPTIAN SUN!

After a two-year collaboration with my dear friend, colleague, and Egyptian native, Hela, we're traveling off the beaten path through Egypt beginning in 2022! Our featured 11-day/10-night Limited Edition Egypt trips are offered November thru April yearly when the comfortable temperatures in Egypt equate a perfect setting to explore under the Egyptian sun and enjoy this iconic country's historical monuments and cultural sites. If you're looking for a trip to Egypt that offers that same personalized, intimate experience traveling in Egypt that you've experienced with us in France, don't miss the opportunity to join us for this unparalleled adventure through Egypt.

OUR EGYPT TOUR IS LIMITED TO 10 TRAVELERS PER TOUR DATE

AND

OUR DAHABIYA FOR OUR 4-NIGHT NILE CRUISE
SETS THE STAGE TO THOROUGHLY ENJOY THIS MAGICAL EXPERIENCE!

Our 11-Day/10 Night itinerary is designed to take travelers on an extraordinary journey into the past to discover Egypt through the eyes of our Egyptian friends, historians, and artisans! We take you beyond the tourist hotspots to experience Egypt through our eyes and those of our Egyptian friends and partners!

EMAIL US at christy@traveloffthebeatenpath.com or CALL or message us on WhatsApp at 1.717.683.2827 with your questions and requests.

NEW ADDITION TO OUR LIMITED EDITION TOURS BEGINNING IN 2022...

Egypt has one of the longest histories of any country, tracing its heritage along the Nile Delta back to the 6th–4th millennia BCE. Considered a cradle of civilization, ancient Egypt witnessed some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanization, organized religion, and central government. Iconic monuments such as the Giza Necropolis and its Great Sphinx, as well as the ruins of Karnak, Temple of Hatshepsut, Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Memphis, and Thebes, contribute to Egypt's long and rich cultural heritage and remain an integral part of its national identity. The country has endured and often assimilated, various foreign influences, including Greek, Persian, Roman, Arab, Ottoman, Turkish, and Nubian. Egypt served as an early and important center of Christianity, but today is a predominantly Muslim country, albeit with a significant Christian minority.

NOTABLE WOMEN IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY

While we also often associate Egyptian history with notable Pharaohs such as Ramses II, Tutankhamun (King Tut), Akhenaten, and Khufu, several women, Hatshepsut, Cleopatra, and Nefertari Meritmut, as well as Goddess Hathor, merit notable mentions in Egyptian history. Regarded by Egyptologists as one of the most successful pharaohs, reigning longer than any other woman of an indigenous Egyptian dynasty, Hatshepsut reigned as the second historically confirmed female pharaoh. Her rise to power was noteworthy, thanks to her bloodline, education, and understanding of religion. With an impeccable bloodline as the daughter, sister, and wife of a king, Hatshepsut's understanding of religion allowed her to establish herself as God's Wife of Amun. While the queen of Egypt, Cleopatra actively influenced Roman politics at a crucial period and was especially known for her relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. She came to represent, as did no other woman of antiquity, the prototype of the romantic "femme fatale". The Egyptian queen, Nefertari Meritmut, secured her place as the first of the principal royal wives of Ramses the Great. And, Hathor, one of the most important and complex goddesses of ancient Egypt was known as the mother goddess who created and maintained all life on earth. She was also worshipped as the goddess of love, beauty, pleasure, sky, fertility, music, dance, and protector of women.

WHAT TO EXPECT - TRAVEL THROUGH EGYPT WITH US WARMLY WELCOMED AS FRIENDS!

During our 11-day/10-night tour, you'll explore the magical history of Egypt with our personally selected specialist guides and archeologists, as well as be privy to fun historical anecdotes that bring Egyptian history to life. We'll share time with our favorite artisans visiting their workshops, dining as friends, and VIP guests aboard our dahabeya and at our favorite restaurants and friends' homes. We take you off the beaten path throughout to experience the beauty of Egyptian hospitality, as we know it, and combine it all with luxurious accommodations!

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 11-Day PHARAONIC ADVENTURE

- The Giza Plateau: Great Pyramids and Sphinx
 - Sakkara Pyramids
 - Experience Old Cairo and Zamalek quarter with Hela who grew up here
 - The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo
 - Cruise the Nile River on our privately chartered Egyptian dahabiya
 - Karnak and Luxor Temples
 - The Valley of the Kings and King Tut's tomb
 - Medinet Habu
 - Hatshepsut's Temple
 - Special visit to Kom Ombo Temple
 - Unfinished Obelisk & Nile cataracts in Aswan
 - Spice Souk with Hela
 - Philae Temple
 - Felucca to Elephantine Island
 - Heissa Island and the ladies of Nubia
 - Abu Simbel
 - Dedicated Egyptologists and Certified Egyptian Guides accompany us the entire tour
 - Dining at our favorite, local Egyptian restaurants (No touristy hotel restaurants)
 - Privately hosted lunches and dinners exclusively for us
 - Time with our local Egyptian friends and favorite artisans at home and in their workshops
 - Our personalized unannounced visits and experiences during the tour, exclusively for our guests, that make it truly an Egyptian experience.
 - Experience Egyptian hospitality throughout welcomed as friends
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EGYPT ITINERARY = A PHARAONIC ADVENTURE UNDER THE EGYPTIAN SUN!

Today, I am excited to embark on this new venture with my friend and colleague Hela sharing the best of Egypt with travelers in the same personalized style that I deliver my tours in France. Working together for more than 10 years, Hela and I have a deep understanding of one another's travel style and are like-minded in our vision and philosophy regarding customer service and delivery of travel experiences. Our combined "savoir-faire" ensures you, our guests, an unparalleled, memorable, and fun journey through Egypt unlike any other.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO EGYPT: GIFT OF THE NILE, MEET AT CAIRO AIRPORT - FLY TO LUXOR, WELCOME DINNER - D

Transport to Al Moudira hotel from the Luxor Airport upon arrival.

Built in the tradition of Arabian palaces, it is the West bank's only one. Multilingual owner and artist friend Zeina personally oversaw the three-year construction of her oriental baroque dream hotel.

Once you have settled in, we start the day off with a tour of the Coliseum of Memnon and Medinat Habu Temple, one of Luxor's most underrated monuments, with a substantial amount of the original paint still visible today.

Dinner together at our favorite gourmet Egyptian restaurant on the east bank of Luxor.

DAY 2: HATSHEPSUT TEMPLE, VALLEY OF THE KINGS, LUXOR TEMPLE AT SUNSET, DINNER AT HELA'S HOME - D

Breakfast. After breakfast at the hotel, we visit one of Egypt's most spectacular monuments: the mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, followed by a tour of Deir El Medina, and the Valley of the Kings.

Deir El Medina, also known as the place of truth is where artisans created a community to decorate the pharaohs' and nobles' tombs in preparation for the afterlife. First recorded worker strike recorded in history under Ramses III !

Lunch of Egyptian specialties and exquisite views of the river valley on the west bank before returning to freshen up at our hotel.

Sunset tour of Luxor Temple - The Temple stands as the soul of Luxor and the city of the living. Where the scarab awakens to the voice to Ra on the Nile's eastern bank. It's the only temple that welcomes us during the evening in search of the afterlife.

Dinner together at Hela's home in Luxor

DAY 3: TEMPLES OF KARNAK, BOARD OUR PRIVATELY CHARTERED LUXURY DAHABEYA TO SET SAIL ON THE NILE FOR 4-NIGHTS, SAIL TO ESNA - B, L, D

Breakfast. We start off the day with a tour of the temples of Karnak, dedicated to Amun-Ra and his wife, the goddess of creation Mut.

Lunch at Hela's home with our archeologist

PRIVATELY CHARTERED LUXURY EGYPTIAN DAHABEYA river boat sailing on the Nile for next 4 nights.

We then begin our journey on our private Dahabeya, a traditional two-masted sailboat with 6 luxury cabins, and set our course for Elkab via the Esna lock. A unique way to drift on the Nile, sailing on a Dahabeya remains a biblical experience where time seems to have stopped over 3000 years. As we sail along the Nile, witness farming methods of the saqqia and shaduf, unchanged since the ancient civilization. Stops to villages en route are only accessible to the sail boat of 2 masts.

During our sailing time, learn to play the Egyptian favorite game, backgammon and participate in learning hieroglyphics.

Dinner served aboard our Dahabeya.

The menu aboard our dayabeya changes daily during our sailing to ensure the freshest, seasonal selections. Our private chef prepares us a sumptuous selection of the finest gourmet Egyptian cuisine.

Overnight aboard our Dahabeya.

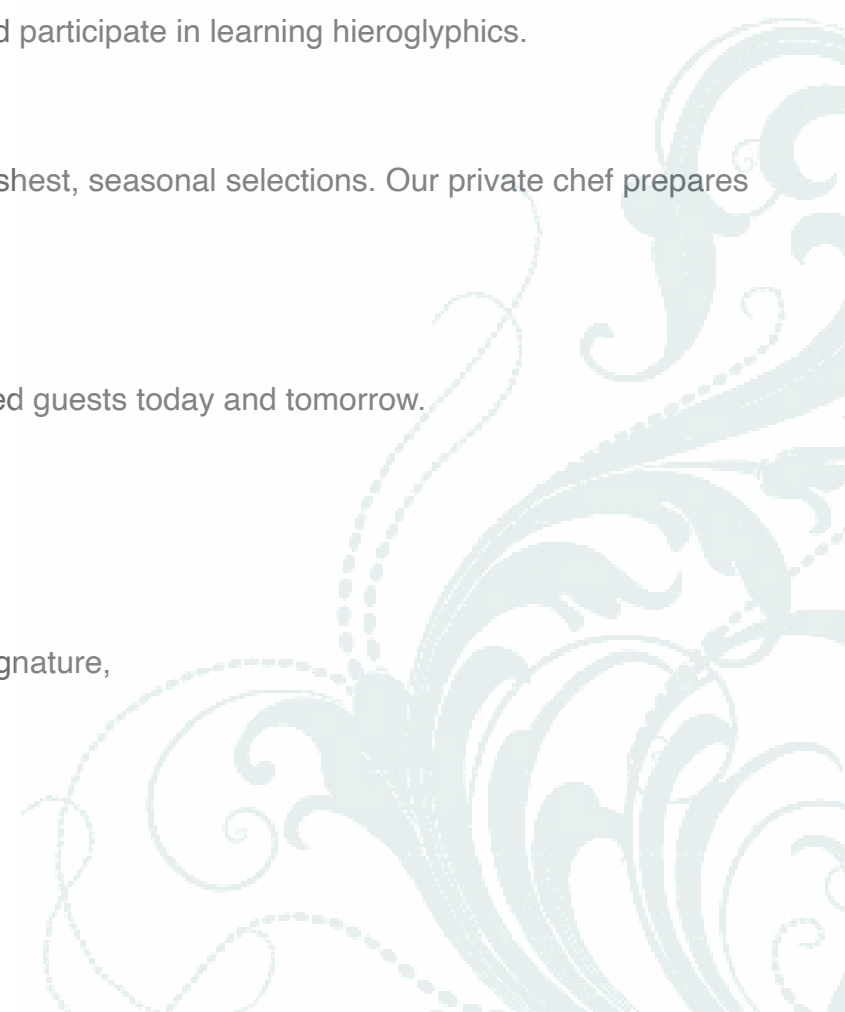
* Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride at Sunrise over West Bank is available for interested guests today and tomorrow.

DAY 4: CRUISING & SPECIAL SURPRISES TODAY - B, L, D

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner served aboard our Dahabeya.

Today we'll cruise the Nile taking in the magic of the river. We have some of our signature, fun and interactive surprises planned for today.

Overnight aboard our Dahabeya.



DAY 5: GEBEL EL-SILSILA, KOM OMBO - B, L, D

We visit the sandstone quarry of Gebel El-Silsila in the morning.

We sail to Kom Ombo in the afternoon. Kom ombo was the seat of the crocodile god Sobek of apotropaic magic warding off the evil eye and dangers coming from the Nile. Its temple is divided into two perfectly symmetrical halves, with two entrances, two corridors and two sanctuaries. One side is dedicated to Haroeris (Horus the Elder), and the other to Sobek, the crocodile god. All meals served on board. We'll have the opportunity to visit off the beaten path sites and tombs here.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner served aboard our Dahabeya.

Overnight aboard our Dahabeya at Kom Ombo.

DAY 6: ASWAN & THE UNFINISHED OBELISK, SHOPPING WITH HELA AT THE SPICE SOUK - B, L, D

Breakfast and lunch on the Dahabeya as we sail towards Aswan. Our driver will pick us up to visit the granite quarry and the unfinished Obelisk. We'll then take a stroll in the vibrant Aswan Souk for a shopping tour of Egypt's finest herbs and spices.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner served aboard our Dahabeya.

Possible lunch option depending on sailing schedule to lunch ashore during our visits.

Overnight aboard our Dahabiya at Aswan.

DAY 7: ABU SIMBEL, FELUCCA TO ELEPHANTINE ISLAND, PICNIC LUNCH ON OUR FELUCCA - B, L, D

Breakfast. Transport from Aswan to Abu Simbel by plane after breakfast.

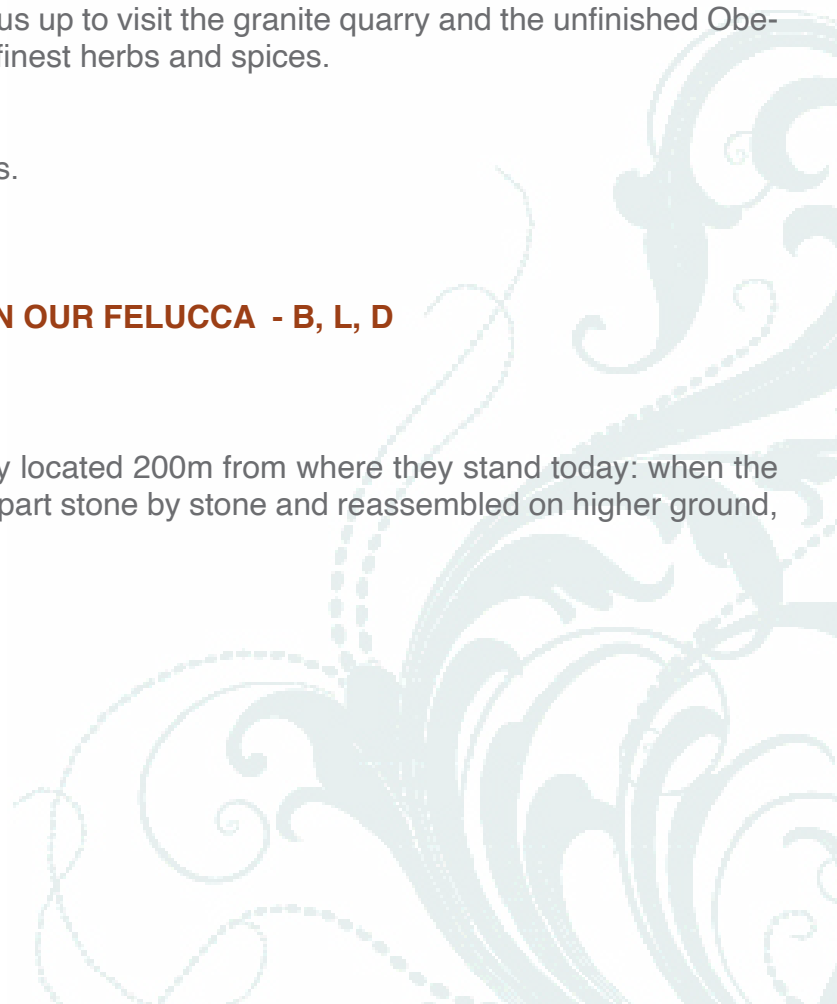
Abu Simbel is the site of two temples built by Ramses II. The temples were originally located 200m from where they stand today: when the construction of the Aswan Dam threatened to destroy the temples, they were taken apart stone by stone and reassembled on higher ground, assuring their safety.

Return to Aswan at the end of the morning.

Picnic lunch on the romantic Felucca next to Elephantine Island.

Check in at our hotel, the Old Cataract Legend Hotel.

Gourmet Egyptian Dinner together in Old Cataract.



DAY 8: PHILAE TEMPLE HEISSA ISLAND, NUBIAN LUNCH AT HOME, SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW - B, L, D

Breakfast. After breakfast, we visit Egypt's most romantic temple: the Philae temple dedicated to the goddess Isis.

Lunch at Heissa Island where we enjoy a traditional Nubian meal prepared by local Egyptian women.

Back to the hotel for free time before the Philae sound and light show.

Dinner on Bigeh Island overlooking Philae.

DAY 9: FLIGHT TO CAIRO, COPTIC QUARTER, EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, NIGHT MARKET & ZAMALEK QUARTER - B, L, D

Breakfast before our flight to Cairo. Visit of Old Cairo and the Coptic quarter on the Holy Family's Trail.

Lunch en route to the Egyptian museum where we'll see the funerary mask of Tutankhamun (King Tut).

Overnight in the stunning Marriott Mena House hotel at the foot of the Pyramids, built in 1869 for the Egyptian Khedive Isma'il Pasha.

Dinner together and night market in Zamalek quarter.

DAY 10: STEP PYRAMID OF SAKKARA, GIZA PLATEAU (THE GREAT PYRAMIDS & SPHINX) - B, L, D

Breakfast. Visit the first Egyptian pyramid ever built, the step pyramid of Sakkara, designed by the Pharaoh Djoser's architect Imhotep.

Lunch at our friend's home under the shade of palm trees.

End your trip spectacularly on the Giza plateau with a visit of the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx.

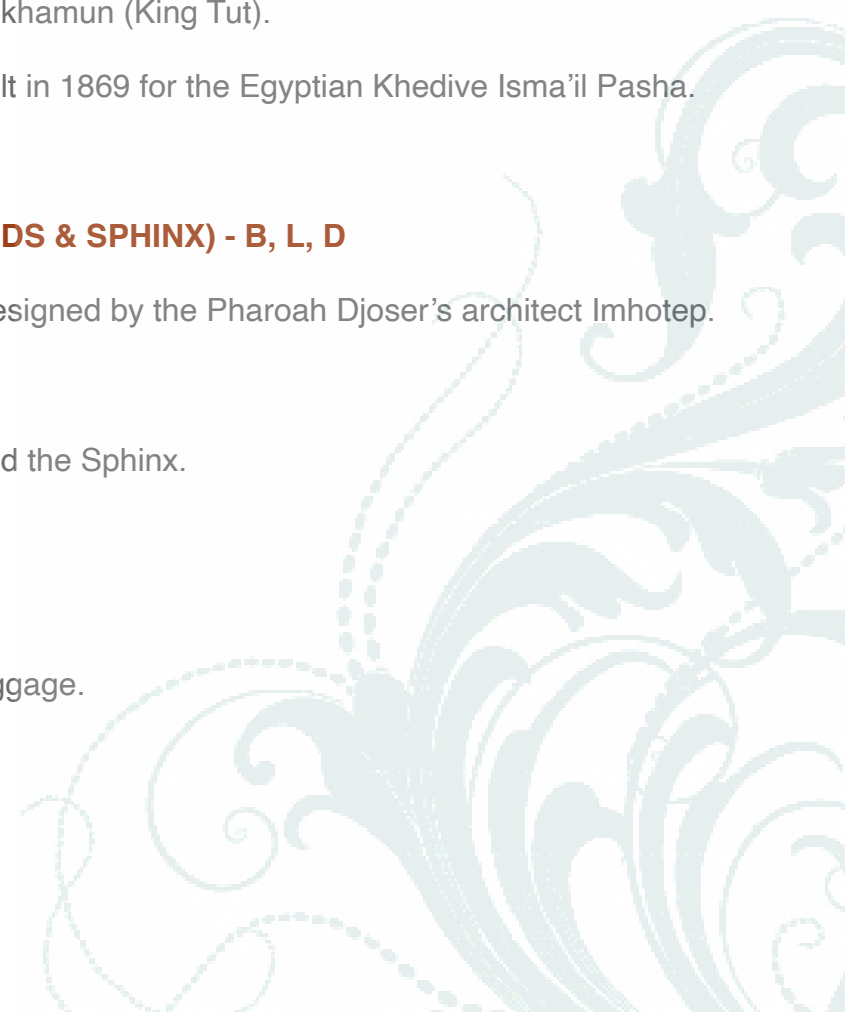
Dinner - A farewell dinner together in true Egyptian style.

DAY 11: FAREWELL, TOUR CONCLUDES - B

We part after breakfast at the hotel, where the concierge will have prepared your luggage.

Until next time as when you drink from the Nile, you are destined to return.

B, L, D = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included



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Group Travel in France

2024 - EGYPT *ULTIMATE IN LUXURY* TOUR DATES & PRICES

US\$22,998 per person double/twin occupancy, **11 days/10 nights**

This All-Inclusive Tour features a combination of suites at luxury hotels and ultimate luxury glamping on our friend's private island in the cataracts of the Nile in Aswan (A truly once-in-a-lifetime experience) and 4 nights on privately chartered, luxury dahabiya (privately chartered luxury boat exclusively for our group with 6-8 cabins) for Nile cruise portion of the trip.

**April 11-21
November 6-16**

2024 - EGYPT *BUDGET CONSCIOUS* SEMI-LUXURY TOUR DATES & PRICES

US\$14,998 per person double/twin occupancy, **11 days/10 nights**

This All-Inclusive Tour features a combination of exceptional boutique hotels, chartered, shared/semi-private dahabiya (smaller shared boat with 6-10 cabins)

**February 27-March 8
November 17-27**

Email us at christy@traveloffthebeatenpath.com with questions
or to request a private departure date.