

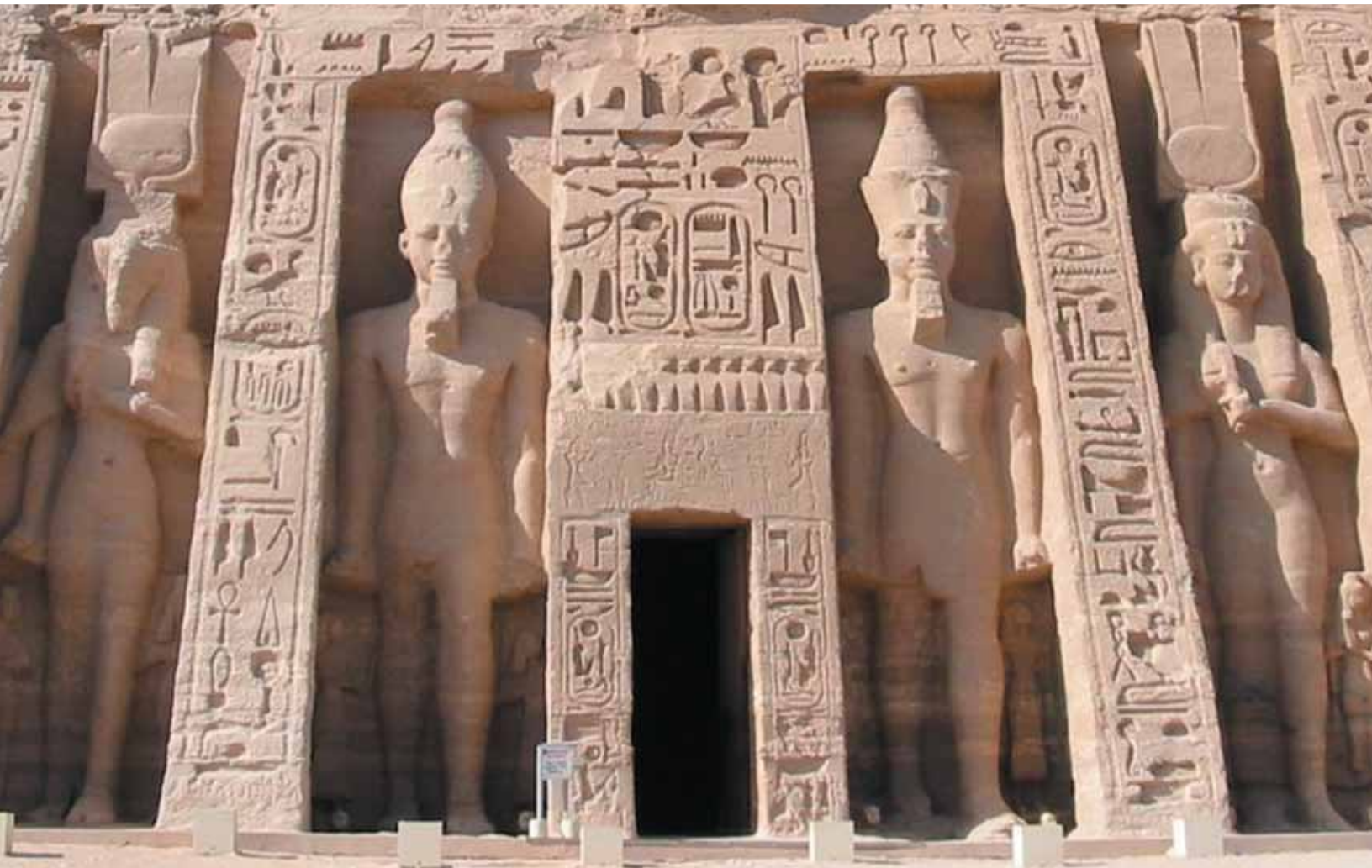


ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Limited to
12 participants

ABSOLUTE EGYPT

February 17 - March 5, 2018 (17 days) with Dr. Stephen Harvey



"Your itinerary was very good. Thanks to you and my fellow travelers for my third wonderful AIA tour!"

- Cynthia, Virginia



Travel with Egyptologist Stephen Harvey on our meticulously-planned itinerary, featuring premium accommodations and a deluxe, 3-night Nile River cruise. Visit all the preeminent sites of the pharaohs from Cairo to Luxor, Aswan, and Abu Simbel including the stunning tombs of Seti I and Nefertari.

ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (R)=Reception, (D)= Dinner

Saturday, February 17, 2018: Depart Home

Sunday, February 18: Arrive Cairo, Egypt

You will be met upon arrival at Cairo's airport and transferred to the historic *Mena House*, a palatial hotel set amid forty acres of gardens, located less than half a mile from the Giza pyramids. This evening we gather for a welcome reception and dinner. *Overnight at the Mena House for three nights.* (R,D)

Monday, February 19: Cairo | Giza Plateau | Cairo

Spend the morning exploring the Giza Plateau, including the Great Pyramid of Khufu; Solar Boat Museum; Eastern Cemetery, with its vibrantly decorated mastaba of Meresankh III; mortuary temple of Khufu; timeless Sphinx; and nearby Valley Temple of Khafra. After lunch at a nearby restaurant we return to our hotel, where the balance of the afternoon is at leisure. Gather for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

"I genuinely appreciated the high level of organization and competence in all aspects of the trip."

- Ron, New York

Tuesday, February 20: Cairo | Saqqara | Serapeum | Memphis | Cairo

This morning we visit the Imhotep Museum on our way into the necropolis at Saqqara, where we see the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the pyramid and causeway of Unas, and the mastaba of Idut (daughter of the pharaoh Unas). Take a short drive to visit the nearby Serapeum, ancient burial place of the sacred (and mummified!) Apis bulls, as well as the Pyramid of Teti (with its ancient pyramid texts) and the tomb of Mereruka. After an outdoor lunch at Saqqara Palm Club, drive to Memphis to experience the newly devised walking circuit, which includes the colossal statue of Ramesses II; Temples of Sekhmet, Hathor, Ramses II, and Seti; Tombs of the High Priests; the West Gate of the once-massive Ptah Temple, chief god of Memphis; and the Apis House, where the sacred Apis bulls were embalmed. Return to our hotel in Cairo and gather this evening for dinner. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 21: Cairo | Egyptian Museum | Luxor

Spend the morning at the Egyptian Museum, which houses the celebrated treasures of Tutankhamen and the Royal Mummy Room. This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight to Luxor. Check-in to our elegant hotel on the east bank of the Nile and have dinner. *Overnight at the Old Winter Palace Hotel for four nights.* (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 22: Luxor | Karnak | Luxor Temple | Luxor

A short drive through town brings us to Karnak, the world's largest temple complex (built over the course of a thousand years), where a generous amount of time is scheduled for exploring. Our visit

*"It was an in depth visit to so many spectacular tombs and temples.
We could not have been more pleased!"*

- Jeanne, California



© R. Todd Nielsen



(Top) The Step Pyramid of Djoser, Saqqara.
(Above) The Causeway of Unas, Saqqara.
(Below) The Sphinx and the pyramids at Giza.



© Piotr Matyja

will include Karnak's Open Air Museum, which has on display many newly reconstructed buildings. Return to our hotel for a late lunch and enjoy the afternoon at leisure. This evening we visit nearby Luxor Temple. (B,L,D)

Friday, February 23: Luxor | Valley of the Kings | Deir el Bahari | Luxor

In the Valley of the Kings, our morning exploration includes several amazing royal tombs, including the legendary Tomb of Tutankhamen and the spectacular Tomb of Seti I. After lunch, visit the stunning mortuary temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el Bahari, including the Third Terrace Sanctuary of Amun (closed to the public) with its beautifully preserved painted decoration and gilded decoration from Ptolemaic times. Return to our hotel on the east bank of the Nile, and gather this evening for dinner. (B,L,D)



(Above) The Tomb of Seti I, which you will visit on Feb. 23rd, is the most complex tomb ever built in the Valley of the Kings.

Saturday, February 24: Luxor | Valley of the Queens | Deir el Medina | Luxor

Spend the morning in the Valley of the Queens, where we gain access to the touching Tomb of Khaemwaset, a young son of Ramses III; and the Tomb of Nefertari, often called the most beautiful tomb in Egypt. Continue on to Deir el Medina, the ancient village of the workers who built the pharaohs' tombs, where we visit the beautifully preserved Tomb of Sennedjem. Our last visit of the day is the tomb of Ramose. Return to our hotel and gather for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

"It was a cohesive group, and I think it was so because of the extraordinary abilities of Dr. Harvey and our guide. They had the most thorough knowledge of Egypt's culture and history, past and present. Remarkable!"

- Judith, New York

Sunday, February 25: Luxor | Dendara | Abydos

We set out through the countryside to visit two of Egypt's most spectacular and under-visited sites. Our first visit is to the Temple of Hathor at Dendara, which has recently been extensively restored, revealing its startlingly well-preserved painted astronomical ceiling and reliefs. After checking into our simple but conveniently-located hotel at Abydos and having lunch, we will visit the archaeological site at Abydos. AIA study leader Stephen Harvey will share his experiences working there over the past 25 years, including information about exciting recent discoveries. Return to our hotel and gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the House of Life Abydos hotel.* (B,L,D)



Visit the less frequented yet magnificent temples at Abydos (above left), where your lecturer has been doing fieldwork since 1993, and Dendara (above right). Below: An image from within the Tomb of Nefertari, which you will visit on Feb. 24th.

Monday, February 26: Abydos | Luxor | Embarkation

Early risers might wish to return to Abydos this morning for further exploration. Later in the morning we will drive back to Luxor and embark our deluxe Nile riverboat. After lunch, visit the small but excellent Luxor Museum. *Overnight aboard the five-star Sonesta Star Goddess for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, February 27: Nile Cruising | Esna

Enjoy a day at leisure aboard our riverboat. Cruising the Nile, we pass through the Esna Lock and dock for the night at Esna. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 28: Esna | Edfu | Kom Ombo

This morning we cruise to Edfu, where horse-drawn carriages will take us to the Temple of Horus, the best-preserved temple on the Nile. (Recent excavations have also revealed the earlier history of the town.) Continue cruising for most of the day, disembarking once for a short walk to visit the twin Temples of Sobek and Horus at Kom Ombo, including a visit to the magnificent (though small), new Crocodile Museum. Dock for the night at Kom Ombo. (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 1: Kom Ombo | Aswan | Disembarkation | Philae | Aswan

After breakfast, disembark our Nile riverboat at Aswan and visit an ancient granite quarry with an unfinished obelisk, before taking a short boat ride to the island of Philae for a visit of its Temple of Isis, which has been called Egypt's most beautiful temple. After lunch, enjoy a guided walk through Aswan's *sug*, the most charming and



traditional of the markets in Egypt, where one can find interesting Nubian ethnographic items such as baskets, pottery, and scarves that are unique to the Aswan area. Check in to our beautiful, recently renovated hotel on the Nile, where we have some time to relax until we gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the New Cataract Hotel for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Friday, March 2: Aswan | Elephantine Island | Aswan

Embark *feluccas* (small, traditional sailing vessels) to visit the archaeological site on Elephantine Island. This afternoon, visit Aswan's elegant Nubia Museum, which exhibits many of the more than 3,000 artifacts recovered during the excavations of Nubian sites that were threatened by the construction of the High Dam. (B,L,D)

Saturday, March 3: Aswan | Abu Simbel | Aswan

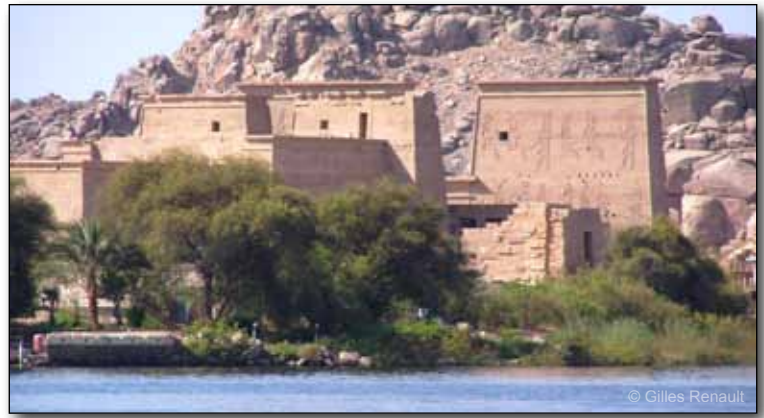
Transfer to the airport early this morning for a short flight to Abu Simbel, where we visit the two fantastic rock-cut temples of Ramses II (built to honor himself and his queen, Nefertari). Moved when the Aswan High Dam was built, they are a marvel of ancient and modern engineering. Fly back to Aswan this afternoon for some time at leisure before we gather for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 4: Aswan | Cairo

Take a morning flight back to Cairo and check-in to our luxurious hotel, conveniently located at the airport. It features fully soundproofed rooms and direct access to Terminal 3 via footbridge. Enjoy lunch in the labyrinthine Khan el Khalili bazaar, a visit to the Islamic Art Museum, and a stroll through medieval Cairo, including a visit to one of its beautiful mosques. This evening we gather for a farewell reception and dinner at our hotel. *Overnight at Le Méridien Cairo Airport.* (B,L,R,D)

Monday, March 5: Cairo | U.S.

Check out this morning and enter the airport to catch flights homeward. (B)



(Top) The magnificent Temple of Isis at Philae. (Above) Feluccas seen along the banks of the Nile. (Below) Abu Simbel, whose two temples were commissioned by Pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century B.C.



Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host



Since 1993, **Stephen Harvey** (Ph.D., U. of PA) has been Director of the Ahmose and Tetisheri Project, which centers on excavation of the monumental complex of King Ahmose at Abydos, under the aegis of the Pennsylvania-Yale-Institute of Fine Arts, NYU Expedition to Abydos. Steve's fieldwork in and around the pyramid complex of Ahmose (ca. 1550-1525 B.C.) has provided important new insight into temple architecture and decoration at the outset of Egypt's New Kingdom. He has also worked on archaeological projects in Egypt at Giza and Memphis, as well as in the U.S., Syria, and Turkey. Steve has been consulted on and interviewed for a number of television documentaries for NOVA on PBS, the History Channel, and National Geographic (among others). In 2013-14 he lectured on the Archaeological Institute of America's national circuit, which he did previously in 2008-09. Steve has also been a lecturer on many study tours to Egypt sponsored by major U.S. and UK institutions, including nine AIA tours of Egypt since 2002.

What to expect: This program involves extensive walking, often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by a companion who will be available to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. At the time of year that we visit Egypt the weather is sunny and dry, with average daytime temperatures ranging from the high 60s to high 80s F. *Complete pre-departure details, what to bring with you, and what to expect will be sent to participants.*

Air arrangements and transfers: Airfare to/from Cairo is not included. Complimentary transfers in Egypt on arrival and departure are included. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

The Archaeological Institute of America & the AIA Tours Program

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Pre-tour Hotel (Per Night)

Hotel	Description	Occupancy	Total Per Room
Mena House, Cairo	Pyramid View (includes breakfast)	Double	\$270
		Single	\$250

Hotel Room Upgrades

Hotel	Description	Occupancy	Total Per Person
Old Winter Palace, Luxor (4 Nights)	Superior Room	Double	\$340
		Single	\$600
	Luxury Room	Double	\$420
		Single	\$740
	Suite	Double	\$500
		Single	\$900
New Cataract Hotel, Aswan (3 Nights)	Suite	Double	\$390
		Single	\$690



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For questions or reservations please contact us:

800-748-6262

Fax: 603-756-2922 • Toll: 603-756-2884

Email: aia@studytours.org • Website: www.aiatours.org

P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608

Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (10 to 12 participants).....\$9,995
 Double Occupancy (8 to 9 participants).....\$10,395
 Single Supplement\$2,195

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).
 With fewer than 8 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

Your Trip Includes:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer & host Stephen Harvey, plus a professional trip manager and an experienced local guide;
- 15 nights' deluxe accommodations as indicated in the itinerary, including a three-night cruise aboard a luxurious Nile riverboat;
- All meals as indicated, with non-alcoholic beverages, plus welcome and farewell cocktail receptions;
- All entrance fees to all sites listed in the itinerary;
- All airport transfers within Egypt;
- All transportation in Egypt as indicated in the itinerary, including four domestic flights;
- Bottled water during all excursions;
- Gratuities to local guide, tour manager, drivers, porters, and hotel staff;
- Porterage;
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including what to pack and a suggested reading guide.

Prices Do Not Include: Round-trip airfare to/from Cairo; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; alcoholic beverages (except as indicated above); excess baggage charges; personal and baggage insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

Cancellation and Refunds: All requests for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least ninety (90) days prior to departure will receive a full refund less a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received between sixty (60) and eighty nine (89) days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. No refunds will be made for cancellations received within sixty (60) days prior to departure. You are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance (an application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit).

Prices, itinerary and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to EOS-Passenger Account-AIA Egypt2/18. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

