



**HIGHLIGHTS OF EGYPT  
ABOARD THE ALEXANDER THE GREAT NILE YACHT  
3 NIGHT CRUISE – JUNE 2010  
THE PRITCHARD FAMILY**

**Day 1- June 13, 2010**

**Arrive Cairo**

**All passengers:** Arrival at Cairo's International Airport via **Delta Airlines #84 arriving at 4:15 PM.** You will be met by a South Sinai Travels/Cox & Kings representative following immigration formalities immediately before the Baggage claim area. You will be transferred to your hotel, located overlooking the Nile River.

*Please Note: Egyptian visas are required for American and Canadian travelers. Egyptian visas are included in your tour cost. As new rules and regulations have been instituted at the Cairo Airport, your Egyptian visa is included in your final documents.*

*Please Note: During your tour you will have the exclusive services of a private English speaking Egyptologist traveling with you. He will conduct all sightseeing excursions as described. He will brief you on each day's program as you tour and may adjust sightseeing based on local conditions [traffic, crowd movement] at time of travel.*

**Four Seasons at Nile Plaza [Nile view room, 1 dbl; Standard room, 3 dbl-confirmed]**

*This beacon of sophisticated hospitality rises on the legendary Corniche along the bank of the river. With commanding views of both the Nile and the Citadel, Four Seasons unites its timeless, caring, personalized attention with the dynamism of fast-forward Cairo. The 365 guest rooms, including 77 suites, are generously sized and reflect the vibrancy of contemporary Cairo, with bright interiors, natural wood finishes and chic, comfortable furnishings. All guest quarters offer panoramic views, whether across the Nile to the island of Zamalek and beyond, or towards the 12th-century Citadel. Leisure facilities include an out-door swimming pool health club and Spa. A wide selection of dining choices are offered within the hotel ranging from local to International cuisine.*



**General Information on Cairo:** It is an exciting city of over 17 million population, where east and west clash in a raucous mix of old and new. Originally called 'Al-Qahira', which means the victorious, it is one of the major Muslim capitals of the world. Its precursor, the Christian city of Babylon under Byzantine rule has long since been absorbed by the rapidly expanding metropolis that is now 'Cairo. In 1171 Saladin restored Sunni rule in Cairo after the Shiite Fatimid dynasty died out. His dynasty ended in 1250, when the Mamluks took the reins of power. They are



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responsible for a great many of the monuments remaining in what is today called 'Islamic' Cairo'. The city's days as an imperial center came to an end with the arrival of the Ottoman Turks in 1517.

Among the historic sights in Cairo is the Citadel built by Saladin in 1176 and over the centuries various edifices have been added within its imposing walls. The most impressive of these additions is the Mosque of Mohammed Ali, built by the 19th century ruler of the same name 'Saladin'. This Turkish-style mosque dominates the whole of Islamic Cairo, an unmistakable landmark. There is also the Mosque of Sultan Hassan and the Ar-Rifa Mosque, where the Shah of Iran is interred. One of the largest mosques in the world is nearby, the Ibn Tulun Mosque. It is an impressive monument to the 9th century Abbasid commander sent to rule in the name of Baghdad, who established his own dynasty instead! A little known Museum of Islamic Art has an extensive collection of Islamic decorative art and is well worth a visit. Old Cairo, once known as Babylon, remains the seat of the Coptic Christian community. There is a museum with mosaics, manuscripts, tapestries and other Christian artwork. The Hanging Church is the center of Coptic worship.

**June 14**

**Pyramids**

**B**

This morning visit one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, the Great Pyramids at Giza. You will also tour the Solar Boat Museum. The afternoon is spent visiting Memphis & Saqqara, its entire complex designed by Imhotep, who was perhaps the first recorded genius in history. Here you will see the Step Pyramid, the earliest of all pyramids. Lunch at the Mena House [payable locally]. This evening attend the Sound & Light Show at the Pyramids.



*Please Note: If you wish to enter the Great Pyramid your guide can easily arrange for entrance tickets at an additional cost [approximately \$25 per person] Entrance is limited and Cox & Kings recommends that you advise your representative/guide on your arrival in Egypt that you wish to include a visit to the interior of the Great Pyramid.*

Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Pyramids of Giza are the most visited monuments of Egypt. The pyramids of Cheops and Chephren, which have stood for 46 centuries, are the largest, while that of Mycerinus is much less impressive. In front of them lies the Sphinx. Mystery surrounds the meaning of this feline character, which is 50 meter





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not to miss is the Royal Mummy Room, housing the bodies of 11 kings and queens who ruled Egypt between 1552-1069 B.C.

**June 16 Full day excursion to El Fayoum/Dahshure: B**

Today following an early breakfast depart on your drive to el-Fayoum, a drive of approximately 1 to 2 hours. Your drive takes you through a landscape varying from sand and rock to mountain and oases scenery. Among the sites to visit include the seven waterwheels, the 12th dynasty Obelisk, the Mosque of Qaytbay, Mausoleum of Ali ar-Rubi, the souq, the collapsed pyramid at Meidum and the red and bent pyramids at Dahshure. Lunch at a local restaurant [payable locally]

El-Fayoum is surrounded by the Western Desert, but it is not a true oasis, for it depends on a branch of the Nile for its water. The marshes of el-Fayoum were popular hunting and fishing grounds until the 4th century BC, when the Ptolemies drained the land and created the 'Garden of Egypt'. In ancient mythology the Great Lake of el-Fayoum was identified with Nun, the primeval ocean and origin of all life; the high land around Kiman Faris was seen as the primeval hill where life first started. Diodorus records that Crocodopolis [el-Faiyum] was built by King Menes, who united upper and lower Egypt after a crocodile saved his life in the Great Lake.

**June 17 Cairo BL**

Today enjoy a tour of Old Cairo, including the Citadel, the Alabaster Mosque of Mohamed Ali, Gayer-Anderson Museum and Ibn Tulun Mosque. You will visit the Hanging Church, Churches of St. George and the Virgin. You will also visit the nearby Ben Ezra Synagogue. You will have lunch at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant and complete your afternoon with a walking tour of Khan el-Khalili souq. Return to your hotel late this afternoon.

The bustling medieval streets and sights of Old Cairo and the Khan el Khalili Bazaar. showcase the cities' fine Islamic architectural heritage and transport the visitor straight back into the Middle Ages. Within the labyrinthine streets of the Khan el Khalili bazaar seemingly all the goods available under the sun can be found for sale.

**Please note:** appropriate dress covering the body including shoulders and legs is required for entering both Coptic and Islamic monuments.





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*Your Cox & Kings accompanying guide will arrange transport and admission tickets for your visit to this impressive monument site.*

*As at many other tourist sights in Egypt, there are the usual souvenir and postcard hawkers outside the Entrance Gate and the traveler should be aware of this.*

*The tour takes approximately 1.5 hours. When you have completed your guided tour you will exit the monument back at the main Entrance Gate. Your guide will accompany you back to the Airport for checkin for your flight to Aswan. The Airport waiting room has a small snack counter and very clean bathrooms for your convenience.*

**June 19** **Aswan/Alexander the Great Nile Yacht** **BLD**  
Today board the Alexander the Great Nile Yacht . Following a buffet lunch you will proceed on a tour of the High Dam, the Granite Quarries and the Temple of Phillae. This evening's dinner on board is followed by a traditional Nubian folkloric show.

**Alexander the Great [Luxury cabinx3-confirmed]**



*This Nile yacht is a 30-cabin floating boutique hotel offering the traveler the best in sophisticated elegance. All cabins, located on two decks, are tastefully decorated, with subtle textures and wood floors throughout. All are equipped with a/c, LCD-TV, and internet connection facilities. The bathrooms have fixed showers, hair dryers, well lighted and Egyptian cotton bathrobes are included in each cabin. The spacious dining room is attractively furnished with large windows, and offers superb international cuisine. Breakfasts and lunches are buffet style while evening dining is a la carte service. The yacht has a spa, small gym, and upper deck swimming pool with jacuzzi. The Sun deck is attractively furnished with overstuffed deck seating, allowing for an afternoon or evening of lounging as the Nile scenery glides by.*

*Please Note: Sightseeing during the Nile cruise is subject to change, based on navigational conditions and the captain, at time of sail. While on the Nile cruise your sightseeing and tours will be conducted by your Private Egyptologist traveling with you. He will adjust your sightseeing as you sail based on local conditions, traffic, crowd congestion. Passage through*



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*the Esna lock [between Luxor and Edfu] is often a time-consuming procedure and delays are common.*

The High Dam, built with Russian assistance was started in 1960 and completed in 1971. As a result of this dam, the area of Egypt's cultivable land was increased by 30%. Some negative consequences have resulted from this construction, among them the dam hinders the flow of silt that was critical to the Nile Valley's fertility and in turn the authorities are faced with the problem that this silt will eventually fill Lake Nasser. Another consequence of the dam's construction was the fact that a great many valuable and irreplaceable ancient monuments were doomed to be drowned by the waters of Lake Nasser. While some temples disappeared beneath the lake, 14 were salvaged and moved to safety. Ten of them, including the temple complexes of Philae, Kalabsha and Abu Simbel, were dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt on higher ground.

South of Aswan and relocated to another island to escape flooding in the 1960's, the Temple of Philae was dedicated to Isis, who found the heart of her slain brother, Osiris, on Philae Island. Most of the temple was built by the Ptolemies and Romans, and early Christians turned the hypostyle hall into a chapel.

**June 20**

**Aswan-Kom Ombo-Edfu**

**BLD**

Early this morning you will set sail for Kom Ombo as you enjoy breakfast on board. On arrival in Kom Ombo, you will tour the Temple of Haroeris & Sobek rebuilt by the Ptolemies in the 2nd century BC. The dual Temple of Sobek and Haroeris [the local crocodile-god and the falcon-headed sky-god, respectively] stands on a promontory at a bend in the Nile near the village of Kom Ombo, where in ancient times sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the river bank.

Reboard the *Alexander the Great* and continue your sail on the Nile, enjoying lunch on board. On arrival in Edfu you will disembark and board your private minibus for a tour to the Greek-built Temple of Horus, the falcon-headed son of Osiris is the main attraction at Edfu. It took about 200



years to complete and its completeness has answered many questions surrounding the Pharaonic architecture that it imitates.



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Enjoy afternoon tea on board and a barbecue dinner is arranged on the Sun Deck for this evening.

Overnight in Esna.

June 21	Esna-Luxor	BLD
This morning you will pass through the Esna lock while enjoying a leisurely breakfast on board. On arrival in Luxor this afternoon following lunch you will begin your sightseeing of Luxor, with a visit to the temples of Karnak and Luxor. This evening enjoy your last dinner on board the <i>Alexander the Great</i> . This evening attend the Sound & Light Show at Karnak.		

*Please Note: Sightseeing in the Valley of Kings & Queens with its numerous tombs and other historic monuments is a veritable feast! During your tour of this fascinating sight you will see at least three tombs. However, the choice of tombs may change from time to time due to closure, restoration or renovation, as determined by the Egyptian Antiquities Authority.*

*Queen Nefertari's Tomb is presently closed for restoration.  
King Tut's tomb is open at this time and admission can be obtained for an additional charge [your private Egyptologist can arrange this at time of visit to the West Bank].*

**Area Information Luxor:** This is one of Egypt's major tourist destinations. The sheer grandeur of Luxor's monumental architecture, and its excellent state of preservation has made this city a great tourist spot. Built on and around the 4000 year-old site of ancient Thebes, Luxor is an extraordinary mixture of exotic history and modern commercialism. At the height of its glory and opulence, from 1570-1090 B.C., the New Kingdom Pharaohs made Thebes, their permanent residence and the metropolis had a population of nearly one million.

The Luxor Temple was built by the New Kingdom Pharaoh Amenophis III, on the site of an older sanctuary dedicated to the Theban triad, is a strikingly graceful piece of architecture on the banks of the Nile. It was added to over the centuries by Tutankhamun, Ramses II, Nectanebo, Alexander the Great and various Romans. At one point the Arabs built a mosque in one of the interior courts.

Karnak is probably one of the most overwhelming monuments of the Pharaonic legacy; work was carried out on the temples of Karnak for over 1500 years. Most was done in the New Kingdom period, although the original sanctuary of the main enclosure, the Great Temple of Amun, was built under the Middle Kingdom.



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The West bank of Luxor was the necropolis of ancient Thebes, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent temples were raised to honor the cults of Pharaohs entombed in the nearby cliffs. The valley is dominated by a barren mountain named, Al-Qurn. The tombs were designed to resemble the underworld, with a long inclined rock-hewn corridor descending into either an antechamber, pillared halls and ending in the burial chamber.

**June 22 Luxor-Cairo B**  
This morning following breakfast you will disembark from the *Alexander the Great* for the last time and complete your sightseeing of Luxor before transferring to the Luxor Airport for your flight back to Cairo. [MS#354- 1415/1525 hours-confirmed]

On arrival in Cairo you will be met and assisted in transferring to your Airport hotel. Very late this evening you will be transferred to Cairo's International Airport, in time to board your homeward bound flight.

**Fairmont Towers Heliopolis Hotel [guest roomx2-confirmed]**  
*Built around a stunning landscaped atrium, Fairmont Towers Heliopolis, Cairo offers visitors to Cairo the ultimate in luxury and service. The hotel is located five minutes away from Cairo International Airport. Heliopolis is a quiet leafy suburb providing respite from the bustling city center. Landscaped gardens, indoor plants, fountains, rivers, water passages, wooden pontoons, stone pillars, sand walls, and sun louvers for guaranteed ventilation and natural lighting are just a few examples of the elements of the universe and the states of change. The spacious, well-lit guest rooms offer all the comfort and services you've come to expect from Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. Indulge yourself in a room boasting a luxurious, five-piece marble bathroom with rainfall shower head, hardwood and marble floors and state-of-the-art Sharp Aquos flat screen televisions. With four restaurants and an innovative culinary team, Fairmont Towers offers guests a wide choicing of dining options, among them: Aqua e Luce the first gourmet restaurant of its kind to open in Cairo. Café Heliopolis is another refreshing encounter for guests with its unique selection of home-made ice-creams, juices, and paninis. Fuze serves continental cuisine, snacks, and tiger prawns in coriander purée and mango salsa, deli gourmet sandwiches, grilled Asian satays, Angus beef burger tasting, and sushi window guests will be spoilt for options. In-Room Dining is also available.*

**June 23 Cairo B**  
**Seven Passengers:** Very early this morning depart Cairo on your homeward bound flight on **DL#85 departing at 1:10 AM.**