



*Welcome to Rott's Manor*

Pete & Mary Clukey

## 2018 Egypt Trip Report

We took Archaeological Paths (<https://archaeologicalpaths.com/>) amazing **ROYAL TOUR TO EGYPT** with: **Dr. Zahi Hawass**, the Legendary Archaeologist; **Dr. Mostafa Waziri**, Egypt's Head of Antiquities; and **Mrs. Jehan Sadat**, Egypt's Former First Lady

Our tours' day-by-day itinerary (all sights were covered but not necessarily in the sequence of this published itinerary)

### Day 1 – Arrival

Arrival at Cairo International Airport. A representative of *Archaeological Paths* will welcome us at the airport and transfer us to the Marriot Mena House, a luxurious 5-star hotel in Giza, situated near the pyramids.

At the Marriott Mena House we genuinely appreciate the true meaning of the word 'unique'. The hotel with its setting has entranced travelers through the ages and the timeless majesty of the Great Pyramids have fascinated them with their spell. The tranquility and fresh, sweet breezes have attracted royalty, the rich and famous to this magical location for 150 years. The Marriott Mena House merges the exceptional heritage of the Pyramids standing gloriously as a witness of over 7000 years of civilization and Marriott International's 21st Century tradition of innovation. The Marriott Mena House comprises 331 luxury rooms and suites, many boasting views of the Pyramids, the lavish gardens or the swimming pool, four restaurants and lounges, expansive indoor, a heated swimming pool and a health club. All accommodations at Marriott Mena House have air conditioning and include luxurious fabrics, a seating area and LCD TV. Each room and suite has a spacious private bathroom with a bathrobe and slippers.

After the check-in at the hotel, guests will have time to relax and then enjoy their dinner in the hotel's restaurant. Overnight stay at the hotel.



## Day 2 - Saqqara & multimedia lecture with Dr. Zahi Hawass

After breakfast, there will be an organizational meeting with the *Archaeological Paths'* representatives. During our first day of sightseeing we will go to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of King Djoser. It was constructed 4700 years ago by the legendary architect Imhotep and was the first pyramid ever built by the Egyptians. *"Maybe this is the most impressive place on Earth. The birthplace of architecture"* – Dr. Zahi Hawass. This over 200 feet high monument is the oldest pyramid in the world! Nearby the pyramid we will visit the tombs decorated with impressive reliefs and paintings. Our sightseeing will end at Saqqara with a visit to the Pyramid of King Teti which boasts one of the oldest pyramid texts ever discovered.



In the afternoon we will return to our hotel to welcome Dr. Zahi Hawass who will give the first of his multimedia lectures. He will summarize 20 years of his work on the Egyptian antiquities. He will focus on his research, including the mysteries of Tutankhamun, the search for the grave of Queen Nefertiti, new findings in the Valley of the Kings, and the search for the tombs of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. After the conference, our special guest will answer your questions. Next, Dr. Hawass and all our guests will take part in a special dinner held in the hotel's restaurant.





### Day 3 - Dashour, Memphis & Pyramid Builders Tombs with Dr. Zahi Hawass



After breakfast, we will go to Dashour to see two pyramids built for Pharaoh Snefru which belong to the oldest, largest, and best preserved in Egypt, built between 2613 and 2589 BC. The Bent Pyramid answers many questions on how the Egyptian pyramids evolved. Its unusual angle makes it one of the most unique and recognizable pyramids in Egypt. During its construction Egyptians changed its angle. Perhaps because of the awkward angles in the Bent Pyramid, Snefru ordered to build another one nearby, and so the Red Pyramid that we will have a chance to enter is the elegant precursor to the Great Pyramids at Giza.

After visiting the pyramids, we will see the ruins of Memphis, the former capital of Egypt. In Memphis we will stop at the museum to admire a giant statue of Ramses II (about 35 feet in length) carved from monumental limestone.

After lunch you will visit another great attraction available just for our company's guests. Together with Dr. Zahi Hawass we will visit the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders at Giza (2500 BC). It is one of the most important discoveries made by Dr. Hawass over the course of his career. The Pyramid Builders Tombs are closed to tourists due to the ongoing archaeological excavations, however, our company has received a special permission to enter this area together with Dr. Zahi Hawass.

Dr. Hawass: I will take you to see my great discovery, the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders. It is called the most important discovery of the 20th century, because for the first time we could learn about the people who built the pyramids. Thanks to this visit you will know how the Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids. It was my dream to discover the tombs of the workmen who built the pyramids at Giza. I always say that this discovery is even more important than the tomb of King Tutankhamun, because there we found mainly gold, but the tombs of the Pyramid Builders reconstructed our history. It is an extremely important discovery, because it shone a new light on the Ancient Egyptian civilization.



Day 4 - Giza Plateau with Dr. Zahi Hawass & special lecture with Mrs Jehan Sadat.



In the morning, when the entire Giza Plateau remains closed to all other tourists, *Archaeological Paths'* guests will have an exclusive access to this iconic site. Thanks to a special permission from the Ministry of Antiquities you will see both the three Great Pyramids and the Great Sphinx privately. These monuments were built around 2500 BC by the pharaohs of the Old Kingdom.

Dr. Zahi Hawass will be waiting for us between the huge paws of the Great Sphinx. Other tourists can see the Sphinx from the observation terrace from the distance, but our special permission will let us enter the Sphinx enclosure which is always closed to the public. Dr.

Hawass will tell us about his research on the Great Sphinx and the mystery of the Pyramids. We will also have a chance to learn about the newest project on scanning the Great Pyramids in search for hidden chambers which is run under the direction of Dr. Hawass. *Dr. Hawass: You will hear about the secret doors in the pyramid. You will hear about tunnels under the Sphinx. You will know, for the first time, how the pyramids were built!*



Next, we will have a private access inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the only one of the seven wonders of the ancient world that is still standing today. What is more, the guards will open two additional chambers for us which are normally closed to the public – the Queen's chamber and the Subterranean chamber. After sightseeing of the Great Pyramid you will be granted a special admission to enter the Solar Boat Museum where you will see the Khufu's boat that symbolically helped the pharaoh to go from the living world to the afterlife.

Another highlight awaiting us on that day will be the meeting and lecture by Egypt's former First Lady Mrs. Jehan Sadat in her home located by the Nile River. It will be a unique opportunity to see the



residence of Egypt's former president - Anwar El Sadat. Madam Sadat who effortlessly advocates for her husband's ideals of peace will tell us about her life as a First Lady, the world's current situation, and about her lifelong goal – the world peace. After the lecture Madam Sadat will answer all of your questions. The meeting will allow you to understand Egypt's modern history better and to get to know the most distinguished Woman of Egypt in person. Madam Sadat will also invite you for a treat in her home.

*Mrs. Jehan Sadat: I invite you to my home to see where president Sadat used to live and meet the leaders of the world. You will see a part of history. We lived here for more than forty years. I would love to speak to you about my life and our work for peace. It's a legacy which I'm very proud of. When you go to Egypt, you have to take a tour with Dr. Zahi Hawass. He is the best in our country to have with you on your trip and to tell you about the history of Egypt. Nobody can say it better than Zahi Hawass. You will enjoy your stay here and, believe me, you will come back again. You have to visit Egypt!*



Mrs. Jehan Sadat is a world famous figure, the wife of Anwar Sadat the late Egyptian President and the Nobel Peace Prize winner. Egypt's Former First Lady has devoted her life to public service and supports many initiatives to improve the life of Egyptian citizens worldwide. She has promoted literacy and founded Egypt's Wafa Wal Amal (Faith and Hope) Society for handicapped war veterans and civilians, the first and largest rehabilitation center of its kind in the Middle East. Her mission today is to maintain her husband's legacy and keep his memory alive so the future generations would know that Egypt's President Anwar Sadat was a man of peace. At the same time she continues to deliver her own views on civil rights and importance of the family. She has become an outspoken advocate for peace in the Middle East and worldwide. She is a

recognized hero of anti-war initiatives globally who highlights the issues of primary education for Muslim youth to empower them by providing sufficient tools, knowledge and competence.

\*\* Sadly, we did not get to meet Jehan Sadat, as she was ill and receiving treatment in the USA. We did however go to the former presidential palace and have afternoon tea hosted by two of her granddaughters.

### Day 5 - Flight to Luxor - Karnak temple & special lecture with Dr. Mostafa Waziri, Egypt's Head of Antiquities

In the morning we will fly from Cairo to Luxor. In Luxor we will check-in on a luxury 5-star cruise ship, our floating hotel.

Out of the several hundred ships sailing on the Nile, we selected the best 5-star deluxe cruise ships. Our flagship is Le Fayon, one of the newest cruise ships available on the Nile, featured on the list of the top 10 Nile cruises. On the ship, there are 57 spacious rooms with floor to ceiling windows overlooking the beautiful landscapes that the Nile offers. The boat is equipped with wireless Internet, LCD TVs, world-class navigation standards and provides an attentive hospitality experience. During the cruise, all meals are served in the fine dining restaurant. In your free time you can go to the cruise ship's bar, to the gym or enjoy the beautiful modern sundeck that comprises tables and chairs, a drink bar, deckchairs to sunbathe and a swimming pool. Cruising the Nile on such a luxurious ship is always, for all of our guests, one of the most memorable attractions. It is also the most convenient and comfortable way to travel from one

place to another to explore Egypt's most renowned temples and historic sites including Philae, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Valley of the Kings, Luxor Temple and Karnak.

This 8-day Nile Cruise features various stops and site visits including all the most impressive monuments from the time of the Pharaohs. Our 5-star Deluxe Nile cruise ship offers modern sun deck, pool, spacious lounges, bar, gym, spa, outside dining and fine dining restaurants. So, there will be plenty to do while sailing. Cruising the Nile on such a luxurious ship is always one of the best memories our tour participants take with them home from Egypt. At the same time cruising is the most convenient and comfortable way to travel from one place to the other.



On that day we will visit the famous Karnak temple. It is the largest temple in the world. Located on the east bank of the Nile, in the neighborhood of a sacred lake, Karnak was not a single temple but a complex of temples, halls, enclosures and obelisks. For over two thousand years from Middle Kingdom (ca. 2040–1780 BC) to Greco-Roman times (ca. 332 BC to 400 AD) it was continuously modified, expanded, and rebuilt.

During the visit you will be joined by Dr. Mostafa Waziri, Egypt's Head of Antiquities. Dr. Waziri as the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities is responsible for all the archaeological sites in Egypt. He will meet you at the Karnak temple complex and introduce you to the archaeological discoveries that have been made in Egypt recently. He will also share the current research news and plans for the future with you.



Dr. Waziri: I know that you are different from everybody else. I'm going to call you the lovers of Egypt. Come and visit Egypt. No country in the entire world can compete with the culture and heritage that we have in Egypt. What you can see above the ground in Egypt does not represent more than 40% of what may still lay hidden underneath the sands of Egypt.

It will be my honor to give a lecture to explain recent work and discoveries in Egypt. I'm very proud that I have joined different archaeological missions. We have a lot to discover every year. Some of our new discoveries are already published, and some are not. So it is going to be my turn to explain what we discovered in the last couple of years, last couple of months and even last couple of days. That's what I'm going to present during this tour. Come and visit Egypt and you will never forget this tour for the rest of your life. Come, the lovers of Egypt.



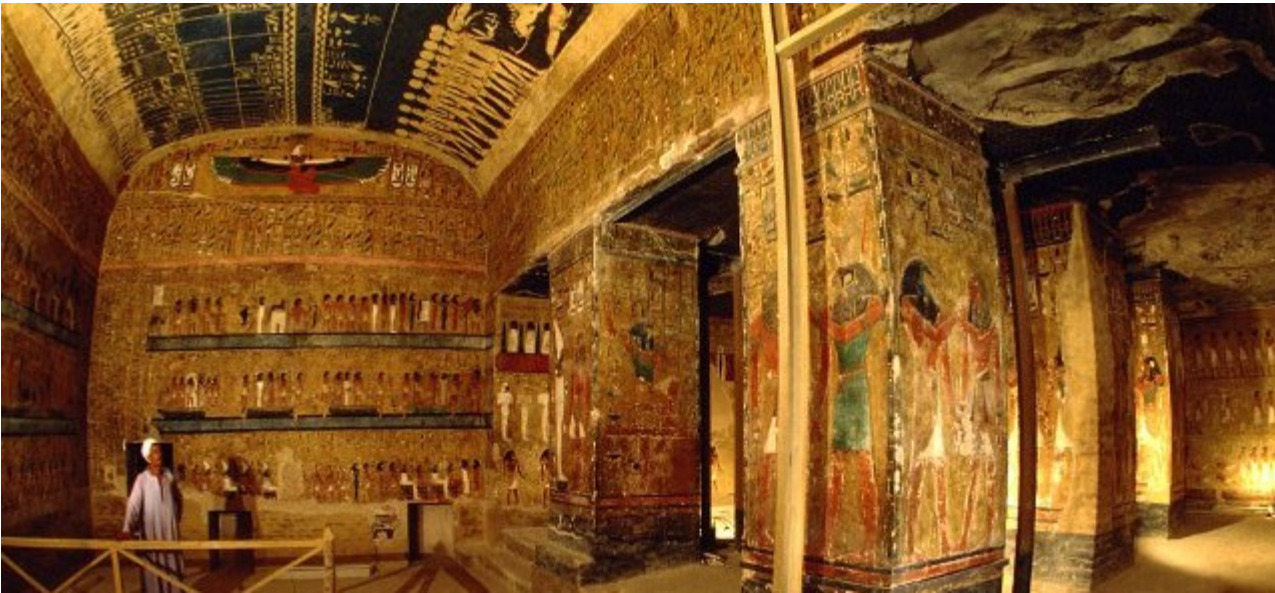


### Day 6 - Valley of the Kings

After breakfast we will start sightseeing of the west bank of Luxor. Our tour will start with a motor boat ride across the Nile to see the highlight of Luxor – the Valley of the Kings.

The Valley of the Kings, located on the west bank of the Nile in Luxor, has been the royal cemetery for 62 Pharaohs. There, we will access some of the most renowned tombs. *\*Our visit will also include the admission to the King Tutankhamun's tomb (\*This attraction is available from September 2018).* Undeniably, the valley is one of Egypt's most important treasures. *\*What is more, Archaeological Paths will provide its guests with a camera permit allowing them, at no extra charge, to take photos.*

When we return to the ship the rest of the afternoon will be free for leisure. Our guests can enjoy the sundeck and the stunning views of the Nile landscape while sailing to Edfu.



### Day 7 - Edfu and Kom Ombo temples

In the morning, our cruise ship will take us to Edfu to see its marvelous temple. The Edfu Temple is the best preserved ancient temple in Egypt dedicated to the falcon god Horus. It was built in

the Ptolemaic period between 237 and 57 BC. When we return to the ship we will cruise towards Kom Ombo where we arrive in the late afternoon.



We will visit the Ptolemaic Kom Ombo Temple. It was built during the reign of King Ptolemy V (ca. 205 to 180 BC). The Ptolemies constructed the Temple of Kom Ombo to worship the two gods, Sobek – the crocodile god and Horus – the falcon god. After visiting the site we will return to the ship for dinner and then we will start sailing south towards Aswan.



### Day 8 - Aswan

After breakfast, we will start the sightseeing of Aswan. Our day will begin with a drive to the Unfinished Obelisk which is the largest known ancient obelisk and is located in the ancient stone quarry. It is nearly one third larger than any ancient Egyptian obelisk ever erected. If it were finished, it would have measured around 140 feet and weighed nearly 1200 tons.

Next, we will take a motor boat ride to the Temple of Philae beautifully located on an island and dedicated to Isis the goddess of health, marriage, and wisdom. Philae was considered as one of the burial places of the god Osiris, so the island was a sacred place for Ancient Egyptians. The temple consists of monuments from various times extending from the Pharaohs to the Caesars.

After our return to the ship and lunch we will relax while cruising the Nile by a motor boat to the Nubian village. Small boats will take us through the narrow passages of the Nile. Before we arrive to meet the local Nubians to visit their houses and experience their way of living, we will admire the beauty of Egyptian nature and stunning views on the Nile.





### Day 9 - Abu Simbel

The second day in Aswan will start with a journey to the majestic Abu Simbel Temple. The temple is one of the most imposing, impressive, and iconic symbols of Ancient Egypt alongside the Great Pyramid and the Great Sphinx. Abu Simbel temple was originally carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II in the 13th century BC as a lasting monument to himself and his queen Nefertari.



### Day 10 - Sailing back to Luxor & the temple of Luxor with Dr. Zahi Hawass

In the morning our cruise ship will leave Aswan and head back to Luxor. You will have a relaxing day to spend on the beautiful sundeck while sailing. You will admire and enjoy the views on the

Nile: flourishing green areas, desert in the distance, farmers at work, and picturesque villages. Our guide will be available on the sundeck to answer all the additional questions you may have.



We will reach Luxor in the evening. Dr. Zahi Hawass will come on board to welcome us. You will be able to share your impressions with Dr. Hawass during the dinner.

Next, we will have the extraordinary privilege to visit Luxor temple privately with Dr. Zahi Hawass. Thanks to a special permission from the Minister of Antiquities we will enter the temple outside its opening hours. The temple will be beautifully lit just for our group! Dr. Hawass will tell us more about his archaeological research and his discoveries in Luxor.

Luxor temple is one of the most beautiful Ancient Egyptian temples located on the east bank of the Nile. The city known today as Luxor (ancient Thebes) was founded in 1400 BC. For centuries Thebes was the capital of Ancient Egypt.

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#### Day 11 - The Temple of Hatchepsut, Colossi of Memnon, Deir el-Medina

Another very exciting day in Luxor will start with a visit to the temple of Queen Hatchepsut and Deir el-Medina with the tombs of the workers who built the Valley of the Kings.

##### - Temple of Queen Hatchepsut, Deir el-Bahari

The Temple of Deir el-Bahari is one of the most characteristic temples in Egypt. It was built of limestone not sandstone like most of the other funerary temples of the New Kingdom. Hatshepsut was the first queen to rule over Egypt in ancient Egyptian history (ca. 1473 to 1458 BC). Although many people, including royal family members, objected the idea of having a lady ruling over Egypt she, through her many achievements, proved them wrong. Hatchepsut became one of the most important and successful rulers of Egypt.

##### - The Colossi of Memnon

The Colossi of Memnon are two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III. They have sat in the Theban necropolis across the river Nile for 3400 years. The original function of the Colossi was to stand guard at the entrance to Amenhotep's memorial temple – a massive cult center built during the pharaoh's lifetime, where he used to be worshiped as a god-on-earth.

##### - Deir el-Medina

It is a worker's village (now an archaeological site), home to the artisans and craftsmen of Thebes who built and decorated the royal tombs in the nearby Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens. Deir el-Medina, because of the wealth of information it provides on everyday life of people who lived there, is one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt.





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### Day 12 - Flight to Cairo, multimedia lecture with Dr. Zahi Hawass

We will fly back to Cairo. After lunch and free time we will take part in the second multimedia lecture by Dr. Zahi Hawass. He will take us again on a fascinating journey of research and excavations he has conducted in Egypt over the last 20 years. He will also discuss in more detail his plans on the new great findings and forgotten artifacts. The lecture will also be a summary of your Royal Egypt Tour. After the conference, there will be time for questions and discussion. Next, Dr. Hawass and all our guests will take part in a dinner held in the hotel's restaurant.

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### Day 13 - Tour of Cairo

After breakfast, we will start the sightseeing of Cairo, the capital of Egypt. We will visit the Egyptian Museum in Cairo - one of the most important museums in the world. It contains the world's largest collection of pharaonic antiquities. We will see the famous Tutankhamun exhibition with the golden mask of the boy king. The visit will also include the additional admission to the Royal Mummy Room that holds mummies of the greatest and most important kings of Egypt. During a visit to the Egyptian Museum Archaeological Paths will provide you with a camera permit that will allow you to take your own photos inside the museum! After lunch we will drive to the Saladin Citadel and Mosque of Muhammad Ali. The Saladin Citadel which dates back to the twelfth century is an Islamic fortress built to unite the city and protect it from Christian crusaders. The Mosque of Muhammad Ali was built on the summit of the citadel in the first half of the nineteenth century.

In the evening, during our farewell dinner, we will celebrate the two weeks of our exciting adventure.



## Day 14 - Departure from Cairo

It is the last day of our tour and time to say goodbye to Egypt. After breakfast we will transfer you to the Cairo International Airport. You will leave Egypt with new experiences, memories and beautiful photographs.

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### We took advantage of these offered optional activities

The additional sightseeing will be scheduled around the main itinerary. Therefore, it is possible to take part in all additional attractions without missing any of the sightseeing included in the main itinerary.

#### Luxor, Medinet Habu – \$75

Medinet Habu, with beautiful colors and hieroglyphics on the walls and ceilings, is a mortuary temple that was constructed for Rameses III in Thebes in Upper Egypt. Medinet Habu is the best preserved temple in Luxor and the largest temple on the West Bank of the Nile. The temple is also designed to serve as a fortress that could be defended in the time of war. Without a doubt, this is one of the most beautiful temples in Egypt, very often chosen for visiting by our guests.

#### Valley of the Queens & Nefertari's tomb –\$195

Valley of the Queens served as the burial site for the queens and some royal children of the 19th and 20th dynasties (1292– 1075 B.C.). There are more than 90 known tombs, usually consisting of an entrance passage, a few short halls, and a sarcophagus chamber. In the Valley, you will visit three very well-preserved tombs as well as the famous Nefertari's tomb regarded the most beautiful in Egypt. Nefertari's tomb has been closed for many years and only recently opened for sightseeing. This is one of the highlights of Egypt, definitely worth visiting.

#### Balloon Flight Over Luxor and Nile River – \$195

For unbeatable views of Luxor's famous temples, take a hot-air balloon flight over the majestic Nile River. Away from the crowds in the peaceful glow of dawn, your sunrise flight over Egypt's ancient monuments promises to be a highlight of your visit. The balloon flight gives you a chance to take the most stunning photographs. During the flight you will experience breathtaking views of Luxor possible only from the air! Do not miss this chance for the best photos from Egypt!

#### Old Cairo + Khan el-Khalili bazaar (including lunch) – \$195

This half a day trip will give you a chance to enter the real world of Old Cairo and its monuments. It is also the place where you can buy interesting souvenirs and taste unique food in one of the Cairo's most famous restaurants! The visit to the Old Cairo district includes the Coptic Cairo and sightseeing one of the first Christian churches. Later on, we will visit the legendary Khan el-Khalili bazaar – one of the most interesting, not only in Egypt but also in the entire Middle East, bazaars. It is famous for its unusual, typically oriental souvenirs and handmade crafts. The Medieval atmosphere of this traditional market, together with the labyrinth layout of its streets, gives visitors a lot of pleasure and a glimpse into how medieval markets once looked like.