

# 2024

## HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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### NEW YEAR'S ON THE NILE

Egypt Aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*

December 27, 2024 – January 5, 2025

with Alison Frank Johnson, Professor of History



**HARVARD**  
Alumni Travels



Great Pyramids, Giza (top) and Relief, Temple of Ramesses II, Abu Simbel (below)

## New Year's on the Nile

Celebrate New Year's 2025 against the majestic backdrop of Egypt's Great Pyramids, Greco-Roman temples, and the storied Nile River. Antiquity's most legendary civilization will inspire you on this eight-night, behind-the-scenes journey.

Traveling by motor coach and privately chartered plane, enjoy the most convenient access to Egypt's remote temples and tombs. Sail the Nile in the wake of pharaohs on a four-night cruise aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*, a deluxe riverboat with an air of classic refinement.

Gain exclusive entry to wonders not typically accessible to visitors. Be among the first guests to witness Cairo's new Grand Egyptian Museum (*pending confirmation*), where experts will unveil the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts. You will also discover the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, the new permanent home of Egypt's Royal Mummies.

Experience the Great Pyramids at their most spectacular during an evening sound-and-light show. Later, go beyond the crowd barriers to see the Great Sphinx up close. In Sakkara, experience special inside looks at the recently discovered tomb of Wahtye and the Step Pyramid of King Djoser, Egypt's oldest pyramid. Fly to Abu Simbel to stand in awe before the enormous rock-cut temples of Ramesses II and Nefertari.

Continue by air to Aswan for your four-night Nile cruise, sailing to Luxor aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*. Discover Egypt at its zenith in UNESCO-listed Thebes and accompany expert guides to see exquisite temples at Karnak and Luxor and the necropolises in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens. Make the start of 2025 truly memorable by joining us on this exclusive journey through Egypt's most iconic sights.

Activity Level 3: 

### A LITTLE MORE TO IT:

This moderately active program includes multiple hotel changes, plus internal flights and/or long drives. Some days are heavily scheduled so that you can see as many of Egypt's ancient wonders as possible. Travelers should be in good health and fit enough to navigate stairs and walk along uneven terrain. The temperatures during your stay in Egypt should range from the mid-40s to low 70s °F. Egypt is a conservative country, especially in terms of dress, focusing on modest Western-style clothing.

## Study Leader



**Alison Frank Johnson** is Professor of History and a resident faculty at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES) at Harvard University. She also serves as chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Lecture topics will be announced closer to departure, but she will bring a wealth of knowledge to this exceptional program.

As always, Alison will be accompanied by expert Egyptian guides throughout the program, who will lead you through the incredible sights on your itinerary.



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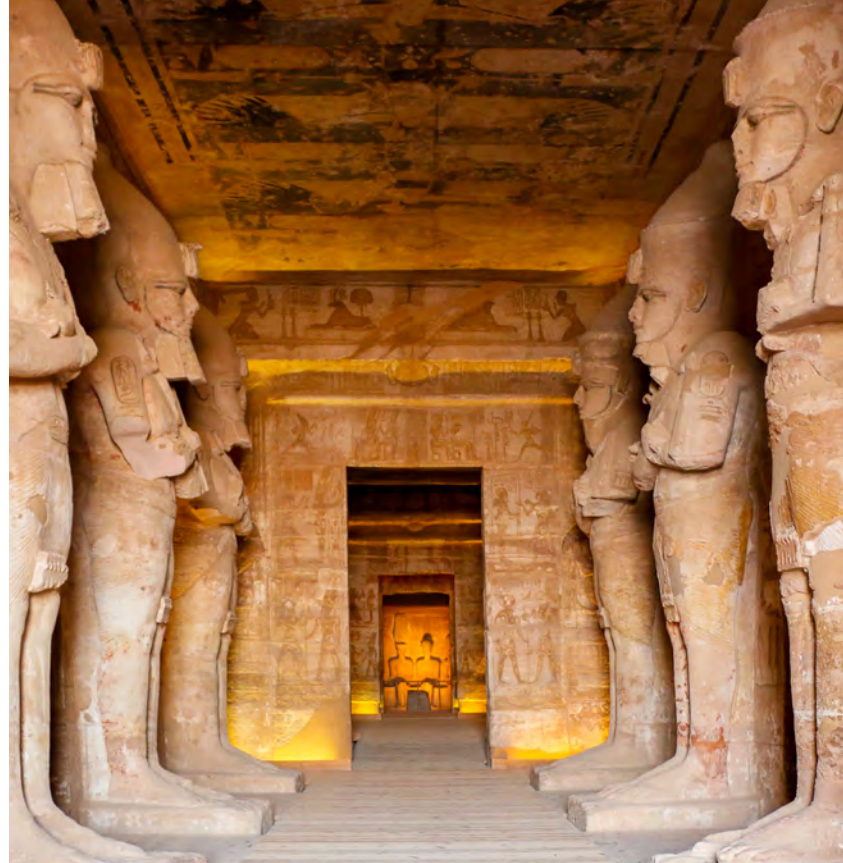
**Step 2:** Fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

**Step 3:** Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

To review this program's terms and conditions, visit [alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/family-egypt-2024](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/family-egypt-2024).

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Map of the region (left); Temple of Ramesses II, Abu Simbel (right) and a felucca on the Nile (below)

## Schedule by Day

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

### Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Cairo.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

### Cairo, Egypt

Arrive in Cairo this afternoon and transfer to the Marriott Mena House, your five-star hotel near the Great Pyramids. This evening, join your study leader at a welcome reception and an introduction to the exciting days ahead. R

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

### Cairo / Giza

Start your day at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, where an expert will guide you through its incredible collection of local treasures spanning millennia, including the famous Royal Mummies. By exclusive arrangement, visit the museum's restoration lab to observe how ancient remains are preserved. After lunch, return to the hotel, where you can learn about Egyptian history and ask questions during an afternoon lecture. Gather for dinner this evening. B,L,D

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

### Cairo / Sakkara / Giza

Head to Sakkara for an exclusive look at the opulent, recently discovered tomb of Wahtye, a high-ranking priest from the Fifth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom around 2450 B.C. This complex features a beautifully decorated above-ground chapel with vivid reliefs, inscriptions, and statues. Continue to the impressive Step Pyramid of King Djoser, the oldest pyramid in Egypt, dating back to the 27th century B.C.



In Giza, discover what the world has been awaiting. Join an expert guide to be among the first to tour the new Grand Egyptian Museum (*pending opening*), exploring the largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts and a complete gathering of Tutankhamun treasures. After lunch, visit the Great Pyramids, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Nearby, go beyond the crowd barriers of the Great Sphinx for up-close private access to this colossal statue. Return to the hotel for an evening and dinner at leisure. B,L,D

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

### Cairo / Abu Simbel / Aswan / Embark Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Take a privately chartered morning flight to Abu Simbel for a guided look at the awe-inspiring temples of Ramesses II and his beloved wife, Queen Nefertari. These massive temples were built in the 13th century B.C. to deter enemies from the south. In an amazing feat of engineering, the temples were moved to their current location in the 1960s to prevent them from being submerged after the construction of the High Dam. From there, fly by private plane to Aswan and board *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*. Prepare to count down to 2025 during a special New Year's Eve dinner celebration. B,L,D

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Temple of Philae, Aswan (left); Luxor (right); and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari (below)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

### Aswan

While in Aswan, take local boats to an island for a visit to the exquisite Temple of Philae, which was relocated due to the rising flood waters of the Nile. Then you may visit the Nubian Museum, which features landscaped gardens, artificial lakes, and more than 3,000 objects going as far back as 3500 B.C. Alternatively, visit the unfinished obelisk in Aswan's ancient stone quarries. This massive granite monument was abandoned during construction more than 3,500 years ago and provides valuable insights into ancient Egyptian stone-working techniques. Delve deeper into the history of Egypt's tombs and temples during an afternoon lecture as the ship sails to Edfu. B,L,D



THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

### Edfu / Kom Ombo

Step ashore this morning in Edfu to visit the well-preserved Temple of Horus. Admire its intact walls covered in hieroglyphs and scenes depicting Horus, the revered falcon god. Return to *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* for lunch with Nile River views. Later, learn how to bake Egyptian-style bread during a cooking class. In the late afternoon, arrive at the one-of-a-kind double Temple of Kom Ombo. Gaze upon its perfectly symmetrical Greco-Roman design and beautifully carved reliefs fusing Egyptian, Greek, and Roman styles. This evening, savor a buffet of Egyptian specialties and dress in traditional clothing for a festive night of music and dancing. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

### Luxor

Arrive in Luxor, known as the "World's Largest Outdoor Museum." Originally known as Thebes, Luxor has been continuously inhabited since around 3200 B.C. and served as Egypt's capital during the New Kingdom. Stop to see the famed twin Colossi of Memnon, 70-foot-tall statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III dating back to 1350 B.C. Head to the West Bank to visit the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings and the temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari.

An extraordinary highlight awaits: Take an exclusive guided look at Nefertari's

magnificent tomb in the Valley of the Queens (*pending schedule*). Access is limited to protect its vividly colorful wall paintings depicting Queen Nefertari's journey into the afterlife. This evening, discover the sprawling, exceptionally well-preserved Luxor Temple, built around 1400 B.C. and featuring enormous pylons, tall obelisks, intricate hieroglyphic carvings, and grand colonnades. Then gather for a festive farewell dinner aboard the ship. B,L,D

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

### Luxor / Disembark / Cairo

This morning, discover the Luxor Museum's outstanding collection of antiquities, including treasures from the Thebes necropolis. Then walk along the Avenue of Sphinxes to the great Karnak Temple, the largest religious building ever constructed, covering over 200 acres. See the massive columns of the temple's Hypostyle Hall, the largest room of any religious building in the world. After lunch, board a privately chartered flight to Cairo and transfer to the Hilton Cairo Heliopolis for check-in. This evening, gather for dinner at the hotel. B,L,D

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

### Cairo / Return

Depart the hotel early this morning and transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

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## Accommodations

### Marriott Mena House, Cairo

A frequent stop for visiting celebrities and dignitaries, this five-star hotel comprises 331 luxury rooms and suites, many boasting views of the Great Pyramids, the lavish gardens, or the swimming pool. Enjoy the hotel's four restaurants and lounges, heated swimming pool, 24-hour gym, and health club.

### Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

With a sleek contemporary design and only 30 cabins, *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* offers a mix of intimacy and luxury. This elegant riverboat features a sun deck with swimming pool and private cabanas, and a shaded deck with an outdoor bar. All cabins offer Nile River views.

## Hilton Cairo Heliopolis

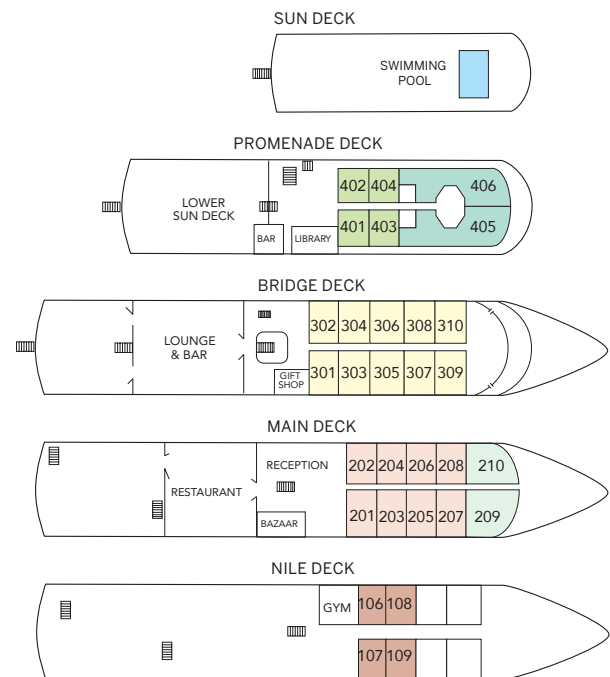
This five-star hotel features three tennis courts, a hot tub, and three swimming pools surrounded by a landscaped garden. All rooms feature decorative touches highlighting Egypt's illustrious heritage. Double rooms with an extra bed (*triple occupancy*) are available.



Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

## Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>106-109</b> Nile Deck / Standard Cabin	<b>\$11,999</b>	<b>\$14,999</b>
<b>201-208</b> Main Deck / Standard Cabin	<b>\$12,499</b>	<b>\$15,499</b>
<b>301-310</b> Bridge Deck / Standard Cabin	<b>\$13,499</b>	<b>\$16,699</b>
<b>401-404</b> Promenade Deck / Standard Cabin	<b>\$14,499</b>	<b>\$17,999</b>
<b>209 &amp; 210</b> Main Deck / Deluxe Cabin	<b>\$16,999</b>	<b>Inquire</b>
<b>405 &amp; 406</b> Promenade Deck / Presidential Suite	<b>\$17,999</b>	<b>Inquire</b>



## Rates Include

- Four nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary; four nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with meals; thoughtfully selected wine/beers at dinners
- Internal flights by privately chartered aircraft (Cairo-Abu Simbel / Abu Simbel-Aswan / Luxor-Cairo)
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested (and included) flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

**Not Included:** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than those in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Cover: Abu Simbel. Trip Registration page: Hypostyle Hall, Luxor, photo by Brynn Hyland (top); and Sun Deck on Sanctuary Nile Adventurer (bottom)  
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