



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

ANCIENT EGYPT AND NILE TREASURES

5 November - 16 November 2006

ITINERARY

Sun. Nov 5 Upon arrival our tour manager will meet and assist you through Immigration and Customs, then escort you to your Le Meridien Pyramids Hotel. Overnight.

Mon. Nov 6 Following breakfast, we will have an orientation meeting and introduction to the Egyptian team that will serve us during our holiday.

We depart for the **only Ceramics Museum** in Cairo, which holds the best ceramics of both ancient and modern Egypt. We will visit Islamic Cairo and view the Rifaai Mosque, where the Shah of Iran is buried along with the Royal family of King Farouk. Then we enjoy the church of San Sergio where the Holy Family was hidden, for three months, when they came to Egypt.

A **Felucca** ride on the Nile **with BBQ lunch** while sailing. The felucca has been the typical Egyptian sailboat for thousands of years and is still a method of traveling within Egypt, nowadays more for pleasure and relaxation.

Lunch will be followed by *our private and exclusive* visit to the famous Egyptian Museum. The famed Egyptian Museum houses a collection of relics dating back to 4,000 BC. There we will experience first hand the different periods of ancient Egypt and the individual artistic and architectural styles of each period. The highlight of this museum is the priceless treasure of Tut-Ankh-Amon. We will hear the incredible story of this child-king from **the first curator** of this magnificent collection and see first hand the intricate workmanship and the tiniest details of the contents of the luggage packed for this King to accompany him to the next world. We will enjoy dinner at the Blue Nile restaurant, which is one of Cairo's best. **(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

Tues. Nov 7 Following breakfast we start with a very special trip to the Giza Plateau. We are off to discover some of the most awesome Wonders of the World. To touch them and to feel them --- here **with the approval of the Egyptian government, alone between the Paws of the Great Sphinx and the Pyramids of the Giza Plateau** our guide, who is an encyclopedia of Egyptology, will give us detailed examinations of various controversial theories surrounding these amazing structures... Finally, we enjoy our camel or horse ride into the Western Sahara

desert and around the Giza Pyramids. Later, we will have an exclusive site-visit lead by the renowned Egyptologist, *Dr. Mark Lehner to the Village of the Workers who built the pyramids*. View the narrow streets of the bakeries and other buildings recently uncovered. This is **a rare opportunity** to see excavation work in progress and to meet the team to learn more about where ceramics started and how they were used in ancient times, see, touch and feel! Dinner is free.

(Breakfast, Lunch)

Wed. Nov 8 This morning we fly south to Aswan. We check into our deluxe Nile cruise “**Sonesta Sun Goddess**”. After settling in, we’ll enjoy a felucca ride on the Nile before we visit the Nubian Market of Aswan for shopping. Aswan, gateway to Nubia and called “The Pearl of Egypt” with its colorful Nubian bazaar, laid-back atmosphere, warm and wonderful people and a lovely promenade along the Nile, is a favorite city in Egypt for many visitors. We continue to visit the fabulous & unique **newly opened Nubian Museum** with its wealth of history.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Thu. Nov 9 After breakfast, we take an early morning boat ride to the relocated Temple of Philae, the delicate, elegant, quintessential feminine temple of Isis. Our Egyptian host will share with us this graceful antiquity that was meticulously moved, stone by stone, from its ancient site (now submerged) to its new higher island home in the middle of Lake Nasser.

We return to our cruise ship for lunch & sail to Kom Ombo. We stop at the famous healing temple, which functioned in ancient days and is now a gloriously picturesque edifice and energy-filled ruin overlooking a bend in the Nile. We continue sailing through the countryside to Edfu. In the evening, we are invited to the Captain’s cocktail party, followed by dinner. We have an open evening to experience the lounge or enjoy the solitude of cruising from the ship’s upper deck.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Fri. Nov 10 Following breakfast, we take a carriage ride to and from the best preserved temple in Egypt, the fabulous Temple of Horus – the falcon god. This temple is the embodiment of the principle of resurrection. We spend the rest of the day sailing on the Nile and pass the first Esna Lock. Overnight at Luxor.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Sat. Nov 11 A full day is devoted to Thebes as we drive across the Nile to the West Bank to visit the Valley of the Kings, where the great and mysterious funerary texts (“The Books of the Dead”) are exquisitely painted or carved into walls of pharaonic tombs. We continue our visit to Madinet Habu called by the Egyptians themselves, “The most splendid of all”, and the immense Colossi of Memnon. You will have an opportunity to visit one of the famous alabaster factories, where they make fantastic copies of Egyptian artifacts found in the tombs and at the temples.

Lunch will be served at “**Africa Restaurant**”, owned by an Egyptian family where delicious homemade food is prepared for you. The afternoon is free to relax. In the evening, you will have time to shop for gold and silver at a unique jewelry store in Luxor.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Sun. Nov 12 This early morning we visit the great Temple at **Karnak**. Once connected to Luxor Temple, two miles away, by a long avenue of sphinxes (still partially intact), Karnak is dedicated to the Powers of Creation. Karnak is the theater in

which humanity (Luxor) plays out its destiny. It is an incredible collage of kings, queens, princes, and priests, with their collective symbolism. This temple is also well known for the chapel to the ferocious goddess Sekhmet. Lunch and then disembark from our cruise ship and check into the Sonesta St. George Hotel. This evening we enjoy our very special visit to **Luxor Temple** as we view this magnificent structure under the stars. **This visit will be followed by a private dinner in Luxor Temple with an Arabian show.**

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Mon. Nov 13 Following our breakfast we are off to Luxor airport for our one hour Flight to Cairo. Lunch will be served at Naguib Mahfouz restaurant at **Khan El Khalili Bazaar** followed by shopping at this very old and famous market of Cairo. Then we check into the historical and famous **Mena House Oberoi Hotel**. This evening we will enjoy a seafood restaurant.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Tues. Nov 14 We will enjoy a hearty buffet breakfast before the beginning of this most amazing day. We shall spend today with **Robert Bauval, the controversial and world famous author, astronomer and Egyptologist**. In the early hours we will tour magnificent Sakkara, and see King Zoser's Step Pyramid, the earliest of the major pyramids. Here, we have **special government permission** to enter **the Step Pyramid**; we will enjoy the unique experience of viewing the **oldest ceramic tiles** known in Egypt and found only in this pyramid. There will be time for careful exploration of important Old Kingdom noble tombs with their vivid symbolic reliefs and visits to other Sakkara sites, including the TiTi pyramid. Some of the themes of Egyptian sacred science were the creation of the world, and the role of humanity within creation. At Sakkara we see these themes in action. We then stop at one of the nicest carpet schools where hand woven carpets are created by Egyptian artists. Lunch will take place today at the excellent "Andrea Restaurant". If time permits, and we have not yet done this in Luxor or Aswan, we will visit a perfume palace on our way back to the Mena House Hotel. Later this evening you will enjoy dinner at the famous "Mogul Indian Restaurant" at the Mena House.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Wed. Nov 15 Following breakfast, today we will meet the **world famous Egyptologist and Chairman of the Antiquities Department of Egypt, Dr. Zahi Hawass**, who will lecture to us about the latest discoveries in Egypt. We shall visit the "Mahmoud Khalili Museum" where the finest arts of Egyptian artists are exhibited and in the evening have our exceptional Farewell Dinner, seated in Bedouin tents, just our group, on the Giza Plateau, facing the gigantic, intermittently illuminated pyramids, the most impressive "high rises" ever built. Great atmosphere, music, belly dancing and wonderful food.... **A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!**

Thu. Nov 16 After breakfast, the transfer to Cairo International Airport for final departure.

Itinerary is subject to change in the event of any circumstances beyond our control

