

**Oases of the Western Desert**  
16 Days

**Day (1):**

We arrive in Cairo this afternoon and transfer to Your Hotel.

**Day (2):**

After Breakfast, Touring begins at the **Egyptian Museum** where we examine the objects that pertain to this special tour, particular those in the numerous side galleries on the second floor **(B)**

**Day (3):**

After Breakfast, We depart for **Alexandria**, the city founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Today's touring begins at **Qait Bey Citadel**, the site of the Great Lighthouse, and includes the lavishly painted tombs near the bay of **Anfoushy** which date from about 200 BC, and the necropolis of the Ptolemaic period at **Shatby** . Lastly, we visit the lovely Hellenistic painted tombs at **Mustapha Pasha**. **(B/D)**

**Day (4):**

After Breakfast, We continue our exploration of ancient Alexandria at the catacombs of **Kom el -Shuqafa**, **Pompey's Pillar**, and the **Serapeum**. The site of **Kom el - Dikka** encompasses a wonderful Roman Odeon made of fine white marble, as well as a large bath complex, house, and what may have been classrooms. We will also visit the newly excavated mosaics on the site of the **Great Library** of Alexandria and round out our day at the **National Museum** **(B/D)**

**Day (5):**

After Breakfast, we depart Alexandria driving through the newly reclaimed desert and along the Mediterranean coast, stopping en rout at **Abu Menas**, a pilgrimage site known for its exceptional basilica. The city Founded by the Byzantine Emperor Zeno, flourished in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our touring continues at **Abusir** (Taposiris) with its temple dedicated to Osiris and a Roman lighthouse. At **El -Alamein** we will visit the war memorials and overnight at the Mersa Matrouh near the Libyan border. **(B/D)**

**Day (6):**

After Breakfast, This morning we will continue along the route Alexander took from Memphis to Siwa Oasis in order to consult the oracle of Zeus-Ammon. Our journey today will be much faster! During our stay we will visit many sites within the oasis as well as the surrounding desert. This afternoon we will begin our touring at the ancient town of **Aghurmi**, site of the **Temple of the Oracle**, already famous in the 26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and consulted by many great men before Alexander.

We will also visit 30<sup>th</sup> Dynasty temple at **Umm Ubayda** and the spring know locally as **Cleopatra's Bath**. **(B/L/D)**



**Day (7):**

After Breakfast, This morning we will concentrate on sites in eastern Siwa, including the painted tombs at **Gebel el -Mawta**, and the Ptolemaic stone – built tomb chapels of **Abu Awwaf**. The last inhabited hatiya on the eastern side of Siwa is **El -Zaytun**, constructed around a stone temple. This land was given to the Senussis and was worked by their former slaves. The village that we will visit is now abandoned, but remains of interest for its intact houses, mosque and mill. After lunch, this afternoon's touring will be to sites west of town. In **Hatiyat Khamisa**, one of the most fertile parts of Siwa, we find a small stone temple and a ridge of over 100 rock- cut tombs. Many treasure hunters have ravaged the area looking for valuables that the Queen of Khamisa is said to have buried here. Nearby is the hunters have ravaged the area looking for valuables that the Queen of Khamisa is said to have buried here. Nearby is the famous Doric-style temple and tomb at **Bilad el-Rum**. As all of these sites are situated amidst small villages, our presence will provide great entertainment for the community. Our last stops of this full day will be at the new **Siwa House Ethnographic Museum** and the medieval fortress of **Shali**, the deserted central village of the oasis founded in 1203 AD and built of salty lake mud. **(B/L/D)**

**Day (8):**

After Breakfast, This morning we will transfer from our bus to four -wheeled vehicles as we re-enter the Western Desert, also know as the Libyan Desert, crossing the rough desert track to **Bahariya Oasis**. Although Bahariya is only 225 miles from Cairo, it has been the least touched by the modern world and survives today on its date palms and hot springs. Several villages occupy the Bahariya depression, but the main one is el – Bawiti. We will overnight **(B/L/D)**

**Day (9):**

After Breakfast, Today we will visit the newly opened archaeological sites in Bahariya Oasis, including the temple dedicated to **Alexander the Great**, the 26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty **temple of Ain el – Muffilla**, the tomb of the 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty **Governor Amenhotep**, and the **26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty tombs** of the merchants Bannentiu and his father Djed-Amun-lufankh. A highlight will be a brief stop at the recently discovered "Valley of the Golden Mummies" **(B/L/D)**

**Day (10):**

After Breakfast, From Bahariya we traverse a rugged landscape until, finally, the famous white chalk "inselbergs" of the Farafra Depression come into view. The inselbergs rise majestically to a considerable height and, together with the eerie chalk formation of the **White Desert** to the south, comprises one of the natural wonders of Egypt. We explore these beautiful landscapes and continue to Dakhla Oasis. This drive will be memorable as we skirt vast stretches of drifting dunes which often overrun the road. At any moment we expect to see the camel caravan and charging armies of romantic old films. Dakhla is known for its fruit orchards, Pink cliffs spanning the horizon, and traditional village architecture. **Mut Hotel.** **(B/L/D)**



**Day (11):**

After Breakfast, Our touring today includes a Roman temple dedicated to the Theban Triad at **Deir el-Hagar** and the wonderfully painted Roman tombs of Pelusis and Petosiris at **el-Mazauwaka** where Petosiris is dressed in Greek clothing, and from the Mithras cult are intermingled with traditional Egyptian funeral rites. We then Visit the Old Kingdom necropolis of **Qila el-Dabba** at Balat, the relief-decorated Roman tomb of Kitnes at **Bisendi** and. If possible. The new Canadian excavations. **(B/L/D)**

**Day (12):**

After Breakfast, We continue to the most populated and developed of the oases, Kharga. Upon arrival, we check into the Rowad Oases Hotel with its relaxing garden Setting. Then we proceed to visit the Roman Temple of Nadura, the fascinating **Bagawat Christian Cemetery** which has mud-brick tombs painted with Biblical scenes, and the newly reconstructed **Hibis Temple**, built by Darius I in honor of Amun. Following lunch, we visit the new **Museum of the Oases**, with time in the late afternoon to explore the interesting local market and village. **(B/L/D)**

**Day (13):**

After Breakfast, we will head to reach **Doush** (ancient Kysis), which developed as a result of slave trade. It lies at the end of the Darb el-Arbain ("road of forty days"), the time it took to travel from the Sudan into Egypt. Our trip will be a bit shorter! Here we will visit a large Roman fortress and the stone temple built during the reigns of Domitian and Trajan and decorated during the reign of Hadrian. The temple was dedicated to Isis and Osiris, who are depicted on the outer walls. Returning to Kharga we will stop at two Ptolemaic and Roman temples: the fortress-like **Qasr el-Ghueita**, built of red sandstone and surrounded by a high wall, and **Qasr el-Zaiyan**, a small Roman temple dedicated to Amenebis, which continued to flourish until the Byzantine period. It has splendid pylons and bears a Greek inscription commemorating its restoration during the reign of Antoninus. **(B/L/D)**

**Day (14):**

After Breakfast, Leaving our wonderful oases behind, we travel though the Western Desert for the last time and re-enter the Nile Valley just south of **Luxor**. We will spend a full afternoon visiting **Karnak Temple**. One can never have too much time to contemplate the wonderful reliefs and monumental architecture of the magnificent temple. **(B)**

**Day (15):**

After Breakfast, After a morning at leisure we fly to Cairo and transfer to your hotel **(B)**

**Day (16):**

Buffet Breakfast at hotel, then you will be met by our representative and transferred to Cairo airport, where you will be helped with your check-in and immigration formalities for your flight back home. **(B)**



**Rate Includes:**

- All tours and transfers indicated in our program
- All tours and transfers are provided by a private deluxe min van
- Off Road , Camping are provided with Jeep 4 X 4 Cars
- Meeting, greeting and assistance upon arrivals and departures
- Entrance fees to sights included in our program
- English speaking Egyptologist
- Meals indicated in our program Breakfast= B, Lunch= L, Dinner=D
- All taxes and services charges

**Rate Exclude:**

- Cost of obtaining entry visa stamp (purchased on arrival)
- Cost of optional tours
- Items not specifically mentioned as included
- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not shown as included in the itinerary
- Items of personal nature such as laundry bottled water & beverages with meals etc;
- Phone calls
- Gratuities.

