

EGYPT: GROUP TRAVEL PROGRAMS - 5

BIBLICAL JOURNEYS THROUGH EGYPT

10 nights: Arrive Cairo, 5 nights; drive to Minia, 1 night; drive to Cairo, 1 night; fly to Sharm El Sheikh and drive to St. Catherine, 2 nights; drive to Sharm El Sheikh and fly to Cairo, 1 night; depart Cairo.

Day 1, Sunday: Arrive Cairo

Arrive Cairo airport. Transfer to the Nile Hilton (Nile view room). At leisure.

Day 2, Monday: Cairo

Morning, visit the three impressive great pyramids at Giza, the oldest and one of the only surviving Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Enter a passageway into the second pyramid, visit the solar funerary boat museum, and legendary statue of the sphinx. Lunch at Le Meridien hotel in Giza. Afternoon, explore ancient treasures at the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities (including Mummies room).

B, L

Day 3, Tuesday: Cairo

Today, we start our journey, retracing important events in the Bible. We will take a full day's excursion with packed lunch, driving northeast of Cairo in an air conditioned coach to explore Farma, Tal Basta, Belbeis and Mostorod, sites where the Holy Family first visited, and stayed, when they entered Egypt in their flight from King Herod.

B, L

Day 4, Wednesday: Cairo

Another full day's excursion with packed lunch to visit important sites continuing in the footsteps of the Holy Family through Meniet Samanoud, and across the Nile Delta to Sakha and Wadi Natrun. At Wadi Natrun, we'll visit the Amba Bishoi and El Syrian monasteries, still active and spiritually commemorative.

B, L

Day 5, Thursday: Cairo

Today we visit Coptic (Christian) sites in Old Cairo. Visit the Al Moallaqa (hanging church), built on the remains of a Roman fortress, and Abu Serga Church, where the Holy Family took shelter in a cave for many months. See Saint Mark's Cathedral, and visit the impressive Greek Orthodox Church of St. George with rich interiors, and the simple yet significant Ben Ezra synagogue. Also see the Virgin tree at Matera, and churches of Abu Seifein monastery.

B

Day 6, Friday: Cairo - Minia

We leave Cairo with a picnic lunch and head south, following the flight of the Holy Family to Minia, visiting sites en route at Samalout, Gabal El Teir (monastery of the Virgin where the family rested in a cave), Hermapolis (Al Ashmounein) and Dairout (Um Makha). Stay at the Mecure Minieh hotel.

B, L, D

Day 7, Saturday: Minia - Cairo

Today, we visit sites at Tel Amarna and Quoussia, where the Holy Family were not welcome, and then on to Meir, where they were warmly greeted. Also visit the monastery of Moharraq where, it is believed, an angel of the Lord advised Joseph to return to the land of Israel. After a picnic lunch en route, we drive back to Cairo, and stay for a night at the Sonesta Heliopolis/Le Concorde hotel near the airport.

B, L

Day 8, Sunday: Cairo - Sharm El Sheikh - St. Catherine

Transfer to Cairo airport to take a morning flight to Sharm El Sheikh, MS 127/MS 157. On arrival, drive to St. Catherine in time for lunch. Stay at the comfortable Morgenland hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

B, L, D

Day 9, Monday: St. Catherine

Arise early to take a pre-dawn drive to visit Mount Sinai, making part of the trip on a camel! Make a gradual climb on foot up Mount Sinai (as did Moses) in time to watch an exhilarating sunrise and have a picnic breakfast. Then, pause and reflect at a small church on the peak where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Descend Mount Sinai to visit St. Catherine monastery; a functioning monastery, where you'll visit a chapel, and see an amazing collection of icons, manuscripts and precious gifts. Return to your hotel for some free time.

B, L, D

Day 10, Tuesday: St. Catherine - Sharm El Sheikh - Cairo

We drive to Sharm El Sheik, in time to have lunch at a restaurant, before we catch our return flight to Cairo, MS 124. Transfer to Sonesta Heliopolis/Le Concorde hotel. Free time for independent activities.

B, L

Day 11, Wednesday: Depart Cairo

Morning transfer to Cairo airport for international departure.

B
