

## Optional Day Trips in & around Giza and overnight in Alexandria (Minimum 4 people)

Everyone is welcome to join us for one, two, three or all four days -- including those who are not able to join us for the full tour.

### Overview and Pricing

April 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday **Old Cairo, Islamic Cairo and the Saladin Citadel** (Lunch inc.): \$240.00 per person

April 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday **Return to Saqqara and visit Memphis** (Lunch inc.) \$240.00 per person

April 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Monday - The rarely visited, yet powerful sites at **Tanis and Tel Basta** plus dinner & overnight in **Alexandria** (Snacks and Dinner inc.) **Tuesday-- Catacombs, Pompey Pillar, Roman Theater, and the Alexandria National Museum** (Breakfast, Snacks and Dinner inc.) \$515.00 per person in Double room; \$535.00 - Single room.

April 15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Only (Day trip to meet group in Alexandria) **Catacombs, Pompey Pillar, Roman Theater, and the Alexandria National Museum** (Snacks and Dinner inc.) \$290.00 per person

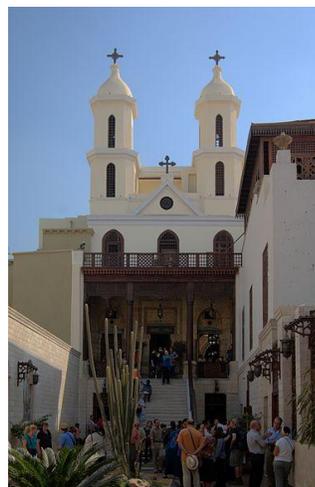
Please note that additional nights at the Mercure Sphinx Hotel in Giza will be billed at \$40.00 per person in a double room and \$60.00 per person in a single room, whether joining us on these excursions or not.

### Details

April 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday **Old Cairo and Islamic Cairo and the Saladin Citadel** (Lunch included)

The narrow cobbled streets of **Old Cairo**, also known as **Fustat**, feature many ancient churches, including the **Hanging Church** (dedicated to the Virgin Mary and still in use), the oldest synagogue in Egypt, the **Ben Ezra Synagogue**, the remains of the Roman fortress, and the **Coptic Museum**.

The shrine below, which sits in a café by the **Church of Saint George** is one of many evidences we will cite that show that this site was transformed from a far more ancient site.



We will visit the **Saladin Citadel** sometimes referred to as Mohamed Ali Citadel, because it contains the **Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali** of (or Mohamed Ali Pasha), with its large dome and overtly Ottoman influenced architecture was built between 1828 and 1848, on the summit of the **Citadel**.



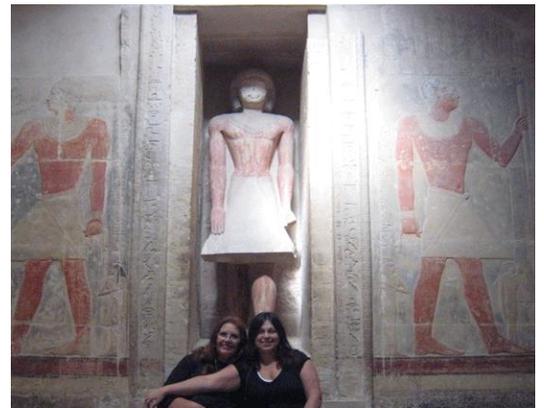
Saladin set out to build a wall that would surround both Cairo and [Fustat](#). Saladin is recorded as saying, "With a wall I will make the two cities into a unique whole, so that one army may defend them both; and I believe it is good to encircle them with a single wall from the bank of the Nile to the bank of the Nile." The [Citadel](#) would be the centerpiece of the wall and sits on the Muqattam Hills, offering beautiful views of the city below.

**In all of these areas we will show you the layer upon layer of site transformation.**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday [Return to Saqqara](#) (Lunch included)**

We didn't have nearly enough time to experience the mysteries at Saqqara during our journey together. On this visit we will have the time explore many areas that we couldn't cover before.

We will visit and enter the [Titi Pyramid](#) and the newly opened elaborate Old Kingdom [Tomb of Merauka](#), a large structure with 33 beautifully decorated chambers. We'll spend more time investigating the area around the [Pyramid of Unas](#) and visit more Old Kingdom tombs as well as the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty [tombs of Maya, Meryt and Horemheb](#).





It was the ceiling glyphs on the **Tomb of Maya** that **Stephen Mehler** wrote about in "The Land of Osiris"

Hakim had told him that this chamber pointed to a connection of Egypt with the Mayan culture "only a boat ride away". Stephen sent pictures of these glyphs (which do not look "Egyptian") to the great indigenous teacher-Mayan Daykeeper, Hunbatz Men, for his comments on them (without telling him where they came from). His reply was that that they were definitely Maya.

#### **April 14<sup>th</sup> Monday    Tell Basta (Bubastis) & Tanis (Snacks and Dinner included-overnight Alexandria)**

This morning we will leave after a very early breakfast to Sharkiya, an area to the east of **Alexandria** in the Nile Delta. We will visit the very ancient sites of **Tell Basta** and **Tanis**.

**Tell Basta** is the site of the famous ancient city Bubastis, one of the most important cities in the history of ancient Egypt, which functioned as a major religious centre for Bastet, the cat Neter, as well as an administrative center since the earliest times. The site of **Tell Basta** is one of the few sites in the Delta where monumental superstructure can still be investigated with temple remains dating back to the Third Intermediate and Late Periods.



In the afternoon we will visit **Tanis**, a city that served as a religious center that rivaled that of Luxor's.

You may have heard of **Tanis** as the city that was portrayed in the Indiana Jones movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. In the famous film the city was buried by a catastrophic ancient sandstorm and rediscovered by Nazis searching for the Ark of the Covenant. In reality, the Ark was probably never hidden in **Tanis**, the sandstorm didn't happen, and the Nazis never battled Indiana Jones in the site's ruins.

But the many true tales about Tanis are exciting as well!



Afterwards we'll drive on to **Alexandria**, check into our Hotel and have dinner together.

Overnight Alexandria: (B,D)

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Alexandria (Breakfast, Snacks and Dinner included)**

We will leave early in the morning for our visits to the **Roman Theatre, the Catacombs of Kom es-Shouqafa and Pompei's Pillar**, the site of an ancient temple dedicated to **Isis**.

We will point out how even these sites, that are documented as being from the Roman period, have only been transformed from far more ancient sites. You can see artifacts and elements of structures from far more ancient sites.



We will also visit the **Alexandria National Museum**, once an early 20th century villa, which was built for the wealthy merchant Al-Saad Bassili Pasha and was more recently home to the American consulate.

The museum documents the history of Alexandria from the Pharaonic era through the 19th century with its more than 1,800 objects that include statues recovered from under the waters of Alexandria's bay, Coptic icons, weapons, and chinaware.



Afterwards we'll enjoy a **Seafood Dinner** located on the **Alexandria Corniche** overlooking the **Mediterranean Sea** and then return to Giza.