

**ITINERARY FOR  
THE SUE LEWIS GROUP  
EGYPT  
08 FEBRUARY 2010**

08 February (Monday)

Please proceed to London Heathrow (Terminal 3) for your Egypt Air non-stop flight to Luxor. Please note that you should check in at least two hours in advance for an international flight.

**MS 762  
(ECONOMY CLASS)**

Check-in London Heathrow	12:15 hrs
Depart London Heathrow	14:15 hrs
Arrive Luxor	21:55 hrs

On arrival at Luxor Airport you will be met by our representatives and assisted with the Immigration & Customs formalities.

You will then be transferred by private air-conditioned vehicle to the Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel where you stay for the next 3 nights.

The Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel is ideally located in the heart of the tourist district in Luxor, the city of ancient treasures and cultural heritage.

The hotel offers 304 bedrooms and suites, each equipped with a minibar, individually controlled air conditioning, satellite television, international direct dial telephone and in-room safe. The en-suite bathrooms all feature a bathtub and shower and hairdryer. A number of rooms have a private balcony and all rooms enjoy either a patio or Nile view.

The facilities at the hotel include an outdoor heated swimming pool and there are three restaurants, Tarbush, Casa de Napoli and Nubia where you can savour oriental, Italian and local cuisine.

Luxor is quite unique: sometimes described as the largest open-air museum in the world, the grandeur of ancient Thebes pervades the hustle and bustle of the modern town and the sheer size and number of its wonderfully preserved monuments makes it Egypt's principal attraction after the Pyramids. Originally founded as the capital of a unified Egypt during the 11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty by Montuhotep II in around 2000 BC, ancient Thebes reached the peak of its glory during the New Kingdom years between 1550 – 1069 BC when most of its great monuments were constructed.

Thereafter the decline of Pharaonic rule mirrored the city's slide in importance and it was only with the arrival of European travellers and explorers in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century that Luxor became a place of significance again.

**Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel (Front Nile View Rooms) – room upgrades available, see supplements.**

09 February (Tuesday)

This morning you will be picked up at the hotel and taken for a half day's guided visit to the Temples of Karnak and Luxor Temple.

Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, temples, columns and obelisks dedicated to the Theban gods and the greater glory of Egypt's pharaohs. Everything here is on a gigantic scale and was created over a period of about 1500 years; at the height of Theban power it was the most important place of worship in all of Egypt. A simply breathtaking artistic and architectural achievement, this is one of the country's most impressive sights.

The strikingly graceful Luxor Temple was built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenhotep III and is dedicated to the gods Amun, Mut and Khons (Amun was one of the gods of creation and the most important god of Thebes). The structure was enlarged and added to over the centuries by other Egyptian pharaohs, as well as the Greeks and Roman, and even the Arabs who built a mosque in one of the interior courts.

Lunch will be in a local restaurant.

This afternoon is at leisure.

**Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel (Front Nile View Rooms) (B,L,D)**

10 February (Wednesday)

This morning you will be picked up at the hotel and taken for a half day's guided visit to the West Bank of Luxor, home to the Valley of the Kings and Queens, as well as the Colossi of Memnon and Medinat Habu.

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One of the most striking vistas in Egypt greets you on arrival on the West Bank: as you pass through lush, irrigated fields, desert mountains loom ahead in which are ranged the gaping black holes of tombs and temples of the necropolis of ancient Thebes.

Once called the 'Place of Truth', the isolated canyon now known as the Valley of the Kings consists of 62 known tombs of pharaohs and nobles, its steep, scorching cliffs devoid of life and a fitting domain for the inhabitants of the sarcophagi who were awaiting immortality. This is also the location where Howard Carter discovered the still intact tomb of Tutankhamum in 1922, one of the very few resting places that had been overlooked by grave robbers. Many of the tombs display an extraordinary level of artistic design with well preserved colour paintings and sunken reliefs on the walls of the passages and chambers.

The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are all that remain of the great funerary temple of Amenhotep III; these 20 metres high sandstone figures were mistakenly believed by the Greeks to be those of the legendary king of Ethiopia, Memnon.

Medinat Habu is one of Egypt's most remarkable temple complexes, beautifully sited against the backdrop of sheer mountain cliffs. Several pharaohs contributed to the construction of the large funerary temple here which remained the centre of economic life in Thebes for several centuries.

Lunch will be in a local restaurant.

This afternoon is at leisure.

**Steigenberger Nile Palace Hotel (Front Nile View Rooms) (B,L,D)**

11 February (Thursday)

You now have the day at leisure to relax and enjoy the excellent facilities of the hotel.

This evening you will be transferred to Luxor Airport for your Egypt Air scheduled flight to Aswan as follows:

**MS201  
(ECONOMY CLASS)**

Check-in Luxor	21:35 hrs
Depart Luxor	22:35 hrs
Arrive Aswan	23:15 hrs

On arrival at Aswan Airport you will be met and transferred by road and boat to the Movenpick Hotel where you stay for the next 2 nights (journey time approximately 50 minutes).

Over the centuries Aswan, Egypt's southernmost city, has been a garrison town and frontier city, the gateway to Africa and the now-inundated land of Nubia, a prosperous marketplace at the crossroads of ancient caravan routes. Its name is derived from the word meaning 'trade' or 'market' in the days when it was visited by great caravans of camels and elephants laden with slaves, gold, ivory, spices, cloth and other exotic wares. Aswan is situated at the northern end of the First Nile Cataract, one of six rocky areas between Aswan and Khartoum, and the Nile here is at its most beautiful as it flows around giant granite boulders and palm-studded islands protruding from the cascading rapids.

The Movenpick Hotel is situated on Elephantine Island in the middle of the River Nile in one of the most enchanting natural locations. Newly renovated the hotel offers the highest standard of accommodation in Aswan.

Each of the 96 refurbished guest rooms has been elegantly designed in Nubian style with all modern 5 star amenities including en suite bathroom facilities, air conditioning and balcony with views over the river.

Restaurants include The Orangerie, La Perla and Pool Terrace, whilst it is also possible to enjoy a drink at the Panorama Bar on top of the famous tower with breathtaking views over the Nile and surrounding desert.

Other amenities include a large infinity edged swimming pool and sundeck, a fitness room, massages and a therapeutic sandpit and tennis court.

**Aswan Movenpick Hotel (Standard Rooms) (B) – room upgrade available, see supplements.**

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12 February (Friday)

This morning you will be picked up and taken for a private felucca ride on the Nile.

As the world's longest river stretching for a total length of some 6680 km – originating as the White Nile from Lake Victoria in Uganda and as the Blue Nile from Lake Tana in the Ethiopian Highlands – the two rivers converge at Khartoum before flowing northwards into the Mediterranean. Before the creation of the High Dam at Aswan the annual summer flood of the Nile would cover the surrounding land with a rich layer of silt, ideal for agriculture; now the flow of water is controlled by the dam, resulting in a reliable inundation in years of poor rainfall further south.

During your felucca ride you can visit the Botanical Gardens. Situated on one of the islands in the middle of the Nile, the Gardens were created by Lord Kitchener in the 1890's when he was consul general of Egypt and commander of the Egyptian army.

This afternoon is at leisure.

**Aswan Movenpick Hotel (Standard Rooms) (B,D)**

13 February (Saturday)

This morning you will be picked up and taken to board the M/S Kasr Ibrim cruise boat for your 4 night cruise across Lake Nasser to Abu Simbel.

Launched in the summer of 1997, the M/S Kasr Ibrim is the sister ship to M/S Eugenie and it recreates the atmosphere and style of a 1920's Nile steamship, but with all the modern conveniences. The ship is built over five decks and has a total of sixty five cabins each of which is fully air-conditioned and has been tastefully furnished with en-suite facilities.

Other facilities include a lounge, a bar area and a restaurant serving oriental and western cuisine. There is a sundeck with a swimming pool and jacuzzi, a Health Club and a Gift Shop. A laundry service is also available.

You have lunch on board and then after lunch you head out to see the Kalabsha Temple with

its Pharaonic aspect, remodelled into the Greco-Roman style and dedicated to the God Mandoulis.

You also visit the hemi-speos of Beit el Wali, erected by Ramses II in the beginning of his reign and the kiosk of Kertassi erected to honour the God Isis.

**M/S Kasr Ibrim (L,D,B) Standard Cabin –**

**Note: As with most boats the cabins are not as spacious as hotel rooms, so we would recommend considering upgrading your cabin if you like your space. (See supplements)**

14 – 16 February  
(Sunday – Tuesday)

You now have the next three days aboard the boat and your sightseeing will include the following places:

The first day you sail to Wadi el Seboua and you enjoy a cocktail as you cross the Tropic of Cancer. You also visit Wadi el Saboua Temple, dedicated by Ramses II to the two Gods Amon Ra and Ra Harmakis. You also see the Temple of Dakka which was dedicated to the God Thot of divine wisdom, lord of times and science & literature.

You then continue to the Temple of Meharakka before sailing to Amada where you stop for the night.

This morning you visit the Temple of Amada, which was built in the XVIIIth Dynasty during the reigns of Thotmosis III, Amenophosis III and Thotmosis IV.

You then visit the hemi-speos of Derr, which is dedicated to the rising sun before seeing the Tomb of Penout, who was the Viceroy of Nubia.

You then sail to Kasr Ibrim and see the citadel there (from the deck of the boat), which is the sole vestige of the distant past of Nubia.

You then sail on to Abu Simbel and visit the temples there, which are symbols of the international salvage of the great Nubian

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monuments including the Temples of Ramses II and his beloved wife Nefetari.

On arrival you will be met and taken for a visit to the Great Temple of Ramses II, which was carved out of the mountain on the west bank of the Nile between 1274 and 1244 BC.

The temple was dedicated to the gods Ra-Harakhty, Amun and Ptah and to the deified Pharaoh himself. It has four huge statues of Ramses II and was designed as a show of power against any boats sailing in the Pharaoh's southern lands.

The temple was lost for many centuries beneath the ever encroaching sands, but it was rediscovered in 1813 by the Swiss explorer Jean-Louis Burkhardt.

The four colossal statues of Ramses II which are over 20 metres in height guard the entrance to the temple and these are accompanied by smaller statues of Queen Thuya, the Pharaoh's mother, Nefertari his wife and some of their children.

It is the innermost chamber that is the most sacred sanctuary and this holds the statues of the four gods sitting upon their thrones.

**M/S Kasr Ibrim (L,D,B)**

17 February (Wednesday)

This morning you will be transferred to Abu Simbel Airport for your Egypt Air scheduled flight to Cairo via Aswan as follows:

**MS146  
(ECONOMY CLASS)**

Check-in Abu Simbel	08:15 hrs
Depart Abu Simbel	09:15 hrs
Arrive Cairo	12:00 hrs

On arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by our representatives and transferred by private air-conditioned vehicle to the Mena House Oberoi where you stay for the next 2 nights (journey time approximately 50 minutes).

Cairo is known as the 'City of Minarets', the semi-mythical capital of the Arab world and today a vibrant and energetic metropolis. Founded on top of earlier settlements by the Fatimid dynasty in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century and

dramatically expanded by the Egyptian Khedive Ismail in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Cairo has an extremely rich cultural, religious and architectural heritage and serves as a fascinating gateway to this ancient land.

Lying in the shadow of the Pyramid of Cheops at Giza and surrounded by 40 acres of jasmine-scented gardens, the Mena House has enchanted guests since its doors first opened in 1869. Beautiful Arabesque furniture, hand-crafted mosaic tiles and magnificent antiques all contribute to the unique luxury of the Mena House, an oasis of tranquility on the edge of the bustling city of Cairo.

The Palace Wing of the hotel boasts a total of 83 rooms and suites, all beautifully appointed with marble bathrooms, air conditioning and most with private balconies. Room views vary from Pyramid to Garden View, or else away from the hotel grounds.

The Garden Wing is newer with well appointed en suite rooms, most with balconies and either Pyramid or Garden Views.

Within the Palace Wing the Khan el Khalili Restaurant serves Egyptian and continental specialities, whilst the Moghul Room is renowned as one of the best Indian restaurants in Cairo.

The hotel's swimming pool is situated in lush gardens filled with exotic palm, jacaranda and mango trees and there are also outdoor tennis courts and a gym for the energetic. A 9-hole golf course is located adjacent to the hotel and arrangements can also be made for horse and camel riding.

**Mena House Oberoi (Garden Wing – Pyramids View Room) (B,L,D) – room upgrade available, see supplements.**

18 February (Thursday)

This morning you will be met by your English-speaking guide to take you on a full day tour of the Egyptian Museum, the great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx.

The sole survivors from the ancient Wonders of the World, the Pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction since their construction some 4500 years ago.

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These massive tombs were built by vast teams of workers tens of thousands strong for the pharaohs' journey in the afterlife. A pharaoh was regarded as the son of the gods and also the intermediary through which the gods' powers were conducted to the people; thus a fitting tomb was required in order to worship him in death and the pyramid was set between the earth and the sky to connect the mortal and divine worlds. A funerary temple is attached to each pyramid for such worship and a long causeway connected this temple to a valley temple where the annual floodwaters of the Nile would reach each season.

The oldest pyramid at Giza and the largest in Egypt is that of Cheops or Khufu which stands at almost 140 metres in height. About 2.3 million stone blocks weighing about 2.5 tonnes each are thought to have been used in its construction. It is possible to enter the pyramid (at an extra charge) and climb through narrow passageways which ultimately lead to the King's Chamber where the empty tomb now rests.

The next largest pyramid is that of Chephren or Khafre which stands on slightly higher ground and retains the limestone casing on its apex. The third pyramid – that of Mycerinus or Menkaure - stands at 62 metres in height and the deep gash visible in one of its sides is the result of Saladin's son Malek Abdel Aziz attempt to dismantle the structure in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century (he had to give up after 8 months having accomplished little).

The Solar Barque Museum behind the pyramid of Cheops allows you to see one of the ancient cedar-wood boats used to bring the mummy of the dead pharaoh across the Nile to the valley temple.

The Sphinx was named thus by the ancient Greeks because it resembled the mythical winged monster with a woman's head and lion's body who set riddles and killed anyone unable to answer them. Carved from the natural bedrock at the bottom of the pyramid of Chephren it is probably supposed to portray this pharaoh's features.

The Egyptian Museum in downtown Cairo houses more than 100,000 relics and antiquities from almost every period of Egyptian history. The collection was first

started by the French archaeologist, Auguste Mariette, in 1858 and the present neo-classical museum building opened in 1902. Highlights of this fascinating museum include the Tutankhamun Galleries, Royal Mummy Room and Ancient Egyptian Jewellery Room.

This evening you will be taken on a farewell cruise along the Nile including dinner.

**Mena House Oberoi (Garden Wing – Pyramids View Rooms) (B,L,D)**

19 February (Friday)

**Option to extend your holiday for an additional 3 nights in Alexandria (extension itinerary & supplement attached).**

Alternatively:

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your Egypt Air flight to London Heathrow (Terminal 3) as follows:

**MS 777  
(ECONOMY CLASS)**

Check-in Cairo	08:00 hrs
Depart Cairo	10:00 hrs
Arrive London Heathrow	13:35 hrs

On arrival at London Heathrow please proceed to Immigration & Customs for the entry formalities.

Tour Leader: Sue Lewis

END OF SERVICES

**The price of this itinerary based on 2 people staying in twin/double rooms is as follows:**

- **£ 2,991 per person**
- **£ 758 per person (Single Supplement)**

**OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTS**

- **Steinberger Palace**  
Superior Nile View Room £75 pp (Double or Single)
- **Aswan Movenpick**

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Superior Nile View Room £76 pp (Double or Single)

➤ **Kasr Ibrim**

-Guaranteed Upper Deck Cabin is £30 pp (Double) or £60 (Single)

- Junior Suite Penout is £145 pp (Double) or £675 (Single)

- Junior Suite Amada / Kalabsha / Derr / Dakka is £265 pp (Double) or £940 (Single)

- Junior Suite Ramses/Nefertari is £320 pp (Double) or £1050 (Single)

- Royal Suite Abu Simbel/Wadi el Seboua is £645 pp (Double) or £1695 (Single)

- Imperial Suite Kasr Ibrim is £1240 pp (Double) or £2890 (Single)

➤ **Mena House**

Palace Wing Pyramid View Room £ 116 pp (Double) £ 196pp (Single)

➤ **Flights**

£ 638 per person (Business Class flights on London/Luxor – Cairo/London)

**N.B. All domestic flight timings are liable to change at short notice; each of your flights will be individually reconfirmed by our representatives with any revised timings advised to you once you are in Egypt. Everything possible will be done to ensure the smooth operation of all internal domestic flights and transfers, but unfortunately Sue Lewis Travel has no direct control over flights within Egypt.**

**N.B.B. Please note that on occasions some ancient historic sites and temples may have to be closed for maintenance. Excursions in the summer months start very early in the morning to avoid the high midday temperatures. Sites can become very busy at peak times.**

**ALEXANDRIA EXTENSION**

19 February (Friday)

Today you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to Cairo train station where you board your train to Alexandria (approximately 2 ½ hours journey).

On arrival you will be met and transferred to the Alexandria Sofitel Cecil Hotel where you stay for the next 3 nights.

The Cecil Hotel was originally established in 1929 and is conveniently situated in the heart of Alexandria overlooking the bay and the yacht club.

With only 83 spacious rooms and 6 suites, the hotel is small and accommodating. It has recently been refurbished and offers a high level of accommodation with elegant furnishings, air-conditioning, en suite bathroom facilities and private balcony.

The hotel also offers a choice of restaurants including Le Jardin Café and Le Plat d'Or, whilst the Monty Bar is a fine place to relax with live music.

You now have the rest of the day at leisure.

**Alexandria Sofitel Cecil Hotel (B) – room upgrade available, see supplements.**

20 February (Saturday)

**The price of this holiday includes:**

- All international & domestic flights in economy class
- All international & domestic airport taxes
- Full assistance on arrival at & departure from each airport
- Tourist visa issued on arrival at Luxor Airport
- Private guide in Luxor & Cairo
- All specified road transfers by private air conditioned vehicle
- Accommodation & meals as specified
- All specified cruise boat excursions & tours on a shared basis with an expert English-speaking guide
- All government sales taxes
- Gratuities

**The price of this holiday excludes:**

- Drinks
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry etc.
- Travel insurance

**For information the meal plans on each day are represented by the following symbols:**

**B: Breakfast**

**L: Lunch**

**D: Dinner**

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On the north coast of Egypt, west of where the Rosetta branch of the Nile leaves the Delta and

the desert sands meet the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean, lies the charming city of Alexandria, once the shining gem of the Hellenistic world.

Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC and then developed by Ptolemy, the city became one of the major ports on the trade route between Europe and Asia, as well as a renowned centre for scientific, philosophical and literary thought and learning with a famed library containing more than 500,000 volumes.

The beacon of Pharos, which was built on an island offshore, served as a symbol of Alexandria's greatness and was counted as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

After falling into decline with the end of the Roman Empire and the Muslim invasions of the 7th Century AD, Alexandria's revival did not come about until the 19th Century as one of the Mediterranean's busiest ports with a multicultural influx of peoples from all over Europe.

Nowadays you can explore the Rosetta with its date palms, fishing boats and stunning old Turkish houses, or make a foray into the catacombs of Kom ash-Shuqqafa and eat excellent grilled fish at one of the city's open-air restaurants.

This morning you are taken to the nearby town of El Alamein, where the tide of the Second World War's North African campaign turned in the favour of the allies. A guided visit includes the battlefields, the underground Military Hospital, the war cemeteries and the Tanks area. The return trip is via the delightful little oasis of King Mariut.

Later today you return to the hotel.

**Alexandria Sofitel Cecil Hotel (B)**

21 February (Sunday)

Today you have a half day tour of Alexandria including Pompei's Pillar and the catacombs.

You head out along the cornice to the aquarium. From here you visit Kaiet Bey Fort, and Abu- El-Abbas Mosque.

Pompei's Pillar is a massive pink granite pillar that Christian Crusaders believed to have been from Pompei. It is actually all that remains of the Serapeum, an ancient temple built by Ptolomey III in honour of Isis and Seraphis.

The Catacombs of Al-Shogafa are an example of Egyptian architecture at its best.

These tombs were tunnelled into the bedrock during the rule of the Antonine emperors (2nd century A.D) for a single wealthy family still practicing the ancient religion. As a privately financed project, it is an engineering feat of some magnitude. These tombs represent the last existing major construction for the sake of the old Egyptian religion. They are alone worth the trip to Alexandria. Though the funerary motifs are from ancient Egypt, the architects and artists were schooled in the Greco-Roman style. Applied to the themes of Ancient Egyptian religion, it has resulted in an amazing integrated art, quite unlike anything else in the world.

A winding staircase descends several levels deep into the ground, with little chapels opening from it, furnished with benches to accommodate visitors or mourners bringing offerings. There are niches cut out of the walls to hold sarcophagi.

Your final stop is the Greco-Roman museum, founded in 1891, which is home to many of the remains and artifacts of Alexandria from Greek and Roman times.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Alexandria Sofitel Cecil Hotel (B)**

22 February (Monday)

You will be transferred by road from your hotel to Cairo Airport and assisted with the check-in to your Egypt Air flight to London Heathrow (Terminal 3) as follows:

**MS 777  
(ECONOMY CLASS)**

Check-in Cairo 10:45 hrs

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Depart Cairo	12:45 hrs
Arrive London Heathrow	16:05 hrs

On arrival at London Heathrow please proceed to Immigration & Customs for the entry formalities.

END OF SERVICES

**SUPPLEMENTS**

**The supplement for this extension based on two people travelling is as follows:**

- **£ 496 per person**
- **£ 143 single supplement**
- **Alexandria Cecil – Sea View Room £ 42 per person (Single or Double)**

**The price of this holiday includes:**

- Train from Cairo to Alexandria
- Meet & greet on arrival at Alexandria Train Station
- All specified road transfers by private air-conditioned vehicle
- Accommodation at the Alexandria Sofitel Cecil Hotel on a B&B basis
- Sightseeing tours a specified
- All government sales taxes

**The price of this holiday excludes:**

- Drinks
- Additional meals
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry etc.
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance

**The meal plans on each day are represented by the following symbols:**

**B: Breakfast  
L: Lunch  
D: Dinner**