



CENTER FOR
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

2024 CHLS Egypt Tour

PROGRAM ITINERARY | January 8-17, 2024

Day 1 – Monday, January 8

We will depart from the U.S. towards the continent of Africa to the city of Cairo, the capital of modern Egypt.

Day 2 – Tuesday, January 9

Upon arriving in Egypt following our trans-Atlantic flight we shall head to the hotel for a night of rest and relaxation as we acclimate ourselves to the new climate and time zone.

Day 3 – Wednesday, January 10

We will begin our time in Egypt with a morning visit of **Saqqara**, the location of the very first pyramid in Egyptian history, the **Pyramid of Djoser**. Alongside Pharaoh Djoser's famous stepped pyramid we will be able to see the unexcavated remains of multiple other "pyramids" as well as tombs belonging to the nobility of Ancient Egypt. Afterwards, we will make a quick stop for some cultural enlightenment and see an authentic Egyptian Carpet Factory where families of Rural Egypt weave famous Egyptian cotton rugs. We will visit the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, inaugurated in 2021 the Museum offers a wide array of nearly 50,000 artifacts which range from all ages of Egyptian History allowing us to gain an understanding of the History and Timeline of the great civilization we are about to uncover over the course of the next week. In addition, the museum houses a collection of 22 royal mummies, many of which date from the biblical era. After our time at the Museum, we will enjoy a **lunch** of authentic Egyptian Cuisine before we head to our next stop, the world renowned **Cairo Museum, serving as one of the most famous museums in the world**, this staple of world history houses the largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts in the world, with some of its most notable items including the Golden Mask of King Tutankhamun, the Israel Stele, the Pyramidions, the Narmar Palette and so much more! After our day at these magnificent museums, we shall head back to our hotel in Cairo.

Day 4 – Thursday, January 11

Today we will make our way to the **Giza Plateau**, which is home to the **Great Pyramid of Kufu, Pyramid of Kafre**, both of which we will not only see but explore as well! After our time at the Pyramids, we will take some time to break for Lunch and have afternoon Camel Rides in one of the world's most picturesque landscapes. Finally, we will end our day seeing the world-famous **Great Sphinx**.

Day 5 – Friday, January 12

Today will begin with a drive north to the ancient city of **Tanis**, known biblically as Zoan of the land of Goshen. In Tanis we will see a small museum dedicated to the finds there and then proceed into the city to see one of the most important cities of Ancient Egypt. Then we will break for lunch. After lunch we will head to the city of **Bubastis**, the capital city of Pharaoh Shishak I, the Pharaoh who played a major role in the division of the two kingdoms of Israel. On our way back into Cairo we will make one final stop at a papyrus factory, where the ancient art of creating the world's oldest form of paper is still practiced, keeping the near 5000-year-old tradition alive. From here we will head to the airport for our flight to Luxor.

Day 6 – Saturday, January 13

Before the sun rises, we will begin with one of the most exciting parts of our trip as we take a sunrise Balloon Ride over **Valley of the Kings**, the famed burial ground of the great leaders of ancient Egypt. After this adventure we will touch down and began our tour of the valley, viewing the magnificent tombs of Ramesses IV and V as well Tutankhamen. Following our time in the Valley of the Kings, our group will proceed to an authentic alabaster stonework factory, where we will learn the about one of the most ancient trades of Egypt dating back to the biblical periods. Off to lunch. Our afternoon will be spent in Ancient **Thebes**, visiting the **Karnak Temple Complex**, the holiest site of ancient Egypt for nearly two millennium. Inside this vast temple complex we can see some of the best representations of biblical Egypt with reliefs that even describe events that take place in the Narratives of 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles. From Karnak we will traverse over to the sister site of the **Luxor Temple Complex**. Here we will see **the Avenue of the Sphynx**, a monumental path connecting the two temples lined with over 600 sphynx statues, from there we will enter the into the temple and see the beautiful reliefs in the temple that date from the days both Old Testament and New Testament

periods. After our time at the two sites, we will prepare for our evening **dinner cruise along the Nile River**.

Day 7 – Sunday, January 14

Our day starts with a bus ride to the city of Aswan stopping at the **Edfu Temple** and Temple of **Kom ombo**.

Day 8 – Monday, January 15

Today we will visit the **Philae temple complex** along the shores of lake Nasser. In Philae we will learn of the major conservation effort that took place to save this site after it was submerged underwater for nearly 50 years, as well as survey the beautiful **Temples of Isis and Osirus**. After Lunch, we will head over to the island of Elephantine making a brief pitstop to drop our luggage off at our hotel, and then head to the **Aswan Museum**, a partially open-air museum where we will see the location of the Jewish community of those who fled to Egypt following the destruction of the first Temple at the hands of the Babylonians. Back to the hotel for dinner and a good night's rest.

Day 9 – Tuesday, January 16

Our final morning together will begin with a flight to Egypt's most southern boarder where we will witness the magnificence of **Abu Simbel**. Serving as the southern gateway into ancient Egypt, Abu Simbel houses two magnificent temples built by Ramesses the Great. In these temples not only do we get to see outstanding depictions of Ancient Egypt during the height of its power in the biblical age, but also the reliefs depicting battles and people groups that are directly linked to the world of our Old Testament. After the site we will have a quick lunch and begin our trek via flight back to Cairo.

Day 10 – Wednesday, January 17

Today we depart Egypt and we will arrive home in the US, leaving the dust of Ancient Egypt in the past but the memories of our wonderful journey forever in our hearts.