



CENTER FOR
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

2025 PYB Tour

PROGRAM ITINERARY | March 7-16, 2025

Day 1 – Friday, March 7

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

Day 2 – Saturday, March 8

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 – Sunday, March 9

We will begin our time in Egypt 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 from Biblical Times that we are about to uncover over the course of the next week. In addition, the museum houses a collection of 22 royal mummies, most 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 renown **GEM (Grand Egyptian Museum)**, this staple of world history houses the largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts in the world, with some of its most notable items pertaining to the studies of the Bible such as the Stele of Merenptah and the Rosetta Stone.

Day 4 – Monday, March 10

After Breakfast in Early Morning

Transfer to airport and departure by domestic flight Cairo / Luxor.

Then transfer to the boat and accommodation in the cabin.

Lunch on Board

Visit the **Monumental Complex of Karnak and Luxor Temple**. Luxor is the modern name of the ancient Uaset called Thebes by the Greeks, the beautiful capital during the New Kingdom and the seat of the two temples of Luxor and Karnak. The temple of Luxor, a jewel of Egypt, built by Amenhotep III and completed by Ramses II, surprised by the harmony of proportions and the elegance of its findings; Karnak temple is fascinating for its grandeur and complexity, many details of great interest, from the huge Hypostyle. At the end of the visit back on board. Dinner and overnight

Day 5 – Tuesday, March 11

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 we will be back on board for breakfast. Then, we will tour of the **Valley of the Kings**, viewing the magnificent tombs of Ramesses IV and V as well Tutankhamen (King Tut).

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 commodities of Egypt and its connection to the biblical worlds of both the Old and New Testament. Back on board for lunch and sailing. Overnight on board.

Day 6 – Wednesday, March 12

Upon arrival in Edfu we will **visit the Temple of Edfu** dedicated to the god Horus. Here we will continue our conversation that we started at Kom Ombo and explore in even greater depths the effects of the Ptolemies in the setting the Stage for the World of Jesus and the New Testament. At the end of the visit, we will head back on board and start sailing to Kom Ombo. We will visit the temples of **Sobek and Haroeris in Kom ombo** where we will also learn of the people group who built this magnificent Temple, the Ptolemies or as the book of Daniel refers to them, “the Kings of the South”. Overnight on board as we sail to Aswan.

Day 7 – Thursday, March 13

Our (*very early*) morning together will begin with a drive 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 against the Hittites that are directly linked to the world of our Old Testament, especially in the days of Kings Saul and David. After lunch on board, our afternoon will take us on a Felucca Ride on the Nile. Back on board for Dinner and Overnight.

Day 8 – Friday, March 14

After breakfast in early morning, we will depart for the Egyptian Island of **Philae** which was the center for worship of the goddess Isis and attracted pilgrims from all over the ancient world. The original island is now completely submerged under the waters of Lake Nasser. But in a spectacular rescue operation, the great temples and monuments of Philae were pulled out of the water and re-erected on a nearby island, now renamed Philae. The largest and most important temple on Philae is the great Temple of Isis, which is oriented south to north. It was entered on the south through the Hall of Nectanebo. We will head to the airport for our flight back to Cairo. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 9 – Saturday, March 15

Today we begin 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 early “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 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 Sphynx** as well as the lesser-known Dream Stele of Thutmoses IV, one of the potential Pharaoh’s of Exodus chapters 1 and 2. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 10 – Sunday, March 16

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.