



CENTER FOR
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

2025 Bible Lands Study Tour | Egypt and Turkey

PROGRAM ITINERARY | May 12-June 2, 2025

Day 1 – Monday, May 12

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, May 13

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. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 3 – Wednesday, May 14

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 **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 pertaining to the studies of the Bible such as the Stele of Merenptah and the Rosetta Stone. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 4 – Thursday, May 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 Sphinx** as well as the lesser-known **Dream Stele of Thutmose IV**, one of the potential Pharaoh's of Exodus chapters 1 and 2. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 5 – Friday, May 16

After breakfast in early morning, we will transfer to airport and departure by domestic flight from Cairo to Aswan. Then we are off to 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. Before check-in on the river boat, we will visit the island of **Elephantine island** where we will see the location of the Jewish community of those

who fled to Egypt following the destruction of the Temple of Solomon at the hands of the Babylonians with the Prophet Jeremiah. After check-in on the river boat, lunch, and rest – we head off to a **Felucca Ride** before heading back to the ship for dinner and overnight on board.

Day 6 – Saturday, May 17

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 the site we will head back to the boat and have lunch as we sail 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.

Day 7 – Sunday, May 18

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 Esna then to Luxor. Overnight on board.

Day 8 – Monday, May 19

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 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. In addition to this we will also get to see an intact temple with "a Holy of Holies" still containing trace remnants of the many sacrifices that took place there over the course of Centuries. Such a place allows us to step back in time and better understand the Temple complexes of Jerusalem in the Old and New Testament which operated very similarly in its structure and ordinances. From Karnak we will traverse over to the sister site of the **Luxor Temple Complex**. Here we will see **the Avenue of the Sphinx**, a monumental path connecting the two temples lined with over 600 sphinx statues, from there we will enter the into the temple and see the beautiful reliefs in the temple that portray the events of the inter-testamental period and the Conquests of Alexander the Great who not only was prophesied about in Daniel 8, but also created the cultural Greek world which the New Testament was birthed in. After our time at the two sites, we will check-in to our hotel for dinner and rest.

Day 9 – Tuesday, May 20

Our day begins with a 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. After that we will head off to lunch. Our afternoon will be spent in **Hatshepsut Temple**, as we discover the world of the Female Pharaoh and the road that it paved for other female rulers of the Old Testament world such as the Queen of Sheba and Athaliah, the Great Queen of Judah. Overnight in Luxor.

Day 10 – Wednesday, May 21

Today we will leave the Old Testament behind as we fly into Istanbul, Turkey and straight into the New Testament World. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 11 – Thursday, May 22

Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, City Cisterns, Constantine Column, and Spice Bazar.

Overnight: Istanbul

Day 12 – Friday, May 23

Boat Ride on the Bosphorus, Istanbul Archeological Museum, after lunch – Drive to Canakkale.

Overnight: Canakkale

Day 13 – Saturday, May 24

Troy, Alexandria Troas, and Assos

Overnight: Assos

Day 14 – Sunday, May 25

Pergamum (Acropolis and Asklepion), Thyatira.

Overnight: Izmir

Day 15 – Monday, May 26

Smyrna, Sardis, and Philadelphia.

Overnight: Kusadasi

Day 16 – Tuesday, May 27

Colossae, Hierapolis, Pamukkale, and Laodicea

Overnight: Pamukkale

Day 17 – Wednesday, May 28

Aphrodisias, Aphrodisias Museum

Overnight: Kusadasi

Day 18 – Thursday, May 29

Boat Ride on the Aegean Sea (lunch included)

Overnight: Kusadasi

Day 19 – Friday, May 30

Priene, Miletus, and Didyma

Overnight: Kusadasi

Day 20 – Saturday, May 31

Ephesus, Ephesus Museum, Lotus Pottery

Overnight: Kusadasi

Day 21 – Sunday, June 1

Morning Free, Fly from Izmir to Istanbul.

Overnight in Istanbul

Day 22 – Monday, June 2

Fly back to U.S.A