



SPARTAN  
PATHWAYS TRAVEL  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# EGYPT: VALLEY OF THE KINGS

2024 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: APRIL 28, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: APRIL 29, 2024

RETURN DATE: MAY 5, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,998

# START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State young alumni?

The Michigan State Alumni Office young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to MSU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 46 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing. If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email [alumni@aesu.com](mailto:alumni@aesu.com). To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page [www.aesu.com/msu](http://www.aesu.com/msu) and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regina Cross". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

Regina Cross

Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program  
MSU Alumni Office

Visit our website [www.aesu.com/msu](http://www.aesu.com/msu) for more details and to book.

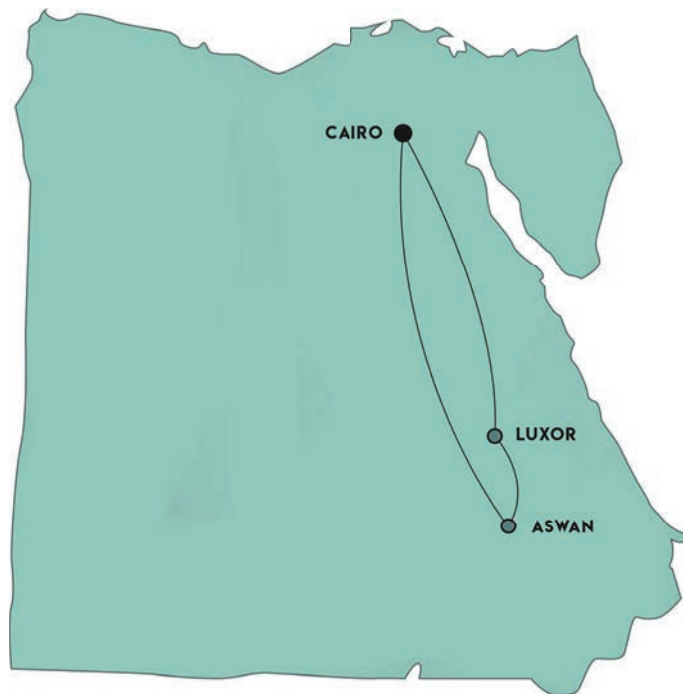
## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory. The MSU Alumni Office offers travel insurance.

Please visit this website for information or to purchase insurance:

<https://my.travelinsure.com/spartans>

# EGYPT: VALLEY OF THE KINGS



8 DAYS | 6 NIGHTS

COUNTRIES VISITED:  
CAIRO | LUXOR | NILE RIVER CRUISE | ASWAN

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

### 8-Day Land Package

#### Transportation and Lodging

- 3 nights at first class hotels with private bath/shower, 2-share rooms in Cairo
- 3 nights on a 5-star deluxe Nile Cruise with private bath/shower, 2-share cabins
- Round-trip economy class air transportation between Cairo and Aswan
- Ground transportation by air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased international AESU group airfare
  - Domestic airport transfers

#### Meals

- 17 meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners

#### Activities and Admissions

- Camel or horse-back ride
  - Galabiyah party
- Egyptian Museum in Cairo; see King Tut's Sarcophagus
  - Authentic Egyptian farewell dinner
  - Traditional Felucca ride on the Nile
  - Guided tours led by a local historian:
    - o Giza including the pyramids and Sphinx
    - o Saqqara including the tombs and pyramids
    - o Kom Ombo and Edfu Temple
    - o Valley of the Kings
    - o Queen Hatshepsut's Temple
    - o Luxor temple with two seated statues of Ramses

### Plus

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

### Tour Highlights

- Welcome orientation and dinner
  - Aswan site of cataracts
  - Galabiyah party
- Egyptian Museum in Cairo
- Authentic Egyptian farewell dinner
  - Deluxe Nile cruise
- Traditional Felucca ride on the Nile
- Monuments of the world's Seven Wonders
  - Saqqara tombs
  - Giza Plateau & Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx
- Red Pyramids, Bent Pyramid, Kephren's Pyramid, Step Pyramid
  - Phalio Temple, Edfu Temple, Queen Hatshepsut's temple
    - Unfinished Obelisk
  - Kom Ombo temple, dedicated to Horus and Sobek
    - King Tut's Sarcophagus
    - Memnon Colossi
  - Karnack temple dedicated to god Amon-Ra
  - Luxor temple with two seated statues of Ramses



# EGYPT: VALLEY OF THE KINGS ITINERARY

## ABOUT THE TRIP:

The land that gave birth to the first great civilization needs little introduction. The pyramids, the minarets, the Nile - the scope of Egypt is magnificent. Cairo's core has remained unchanged since the founding days of Islam. Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes is lined with warrens of lavish burial chambers and boasts some of the most impressive monuments in all antiquity. Further south at Aswan, even more geometrically imposing temples write a testament to the power of archaic gods and omnipotent pharaohs. It is here that the Nile is best explored by ancient sail, on a felucca (Egyptian sailing boat) at the hands of the prevailing currents and winds.

### DAY 1 TRAVEL TO EGYPT

Board your overnight flight to Cairo.

Meals: In-flight

### DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: CAIRO

Upon arrival in Cairo transfer to your hotel. If you are arriving on the group flight, a local representative will meet you and assist with baggage and customs, then transfer to your hotel by private, air-conditioned motor coach. Get acquainted with fellow alumni travelers during tonight's welcome orientation and dinner at the hotel.

Meals: In-Flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation with tour director

### DAY 3 CAIRO

Today encounter the world's most ancient civilization and the only remaining monuments of the world's Seven Wonders, dating back to 1350 BC. Drive to Saqqara, an ancient burial ground that is filled with tombs lying beneath the heaped mounds. Our local historian explains the significance of the beautiful hieroglyphics lining the walls and helps decipher their stories. Then visit Step Pyramid, the first freestanding stone building in history and the first pyramid ever built. Afterwards, drive to the Giza Plateau and visit the Pyramids of Giza and their guardian, the Sphinx. Explore the interior of various tombs and Kephren's Pyramid.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Inclusions: Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian, Monuments of the World's Seven Wonders, Giza Plateau with the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, Kephren's Pyramid, Camel or horse-back ride, Saqqara tombs, Step Pyramid, Red Pyramids, Bent Pyramid

### DAY 4 CAIRO | FLIGHT TO ASWAN | NILE RIVER CRUISE

We check out of our hotel after breakfast and transfer to Cairo airport for our Aswan flight. Today we tour Aswan, a strategic point at the first cataract rapids of the Nile. Here the river flows through granite rocks and the golden desert while palm trees and fertile farmlands cover its banks. Our first stop will be the amazing Phalio Temple. Later we visit the Unfinished Obelisk which lies in its original location in a granite quarry. It was abandoned when some cracks appeared in the rock during its construction. Had this obelisk been completed, it would have been the largest obelisk ever cut.



The best way to explore this enchanting part of the Nile is by cruise ship. After boarding our luxury cruise ship and checking in, we'll enjoy a buffet lunch. Afterward, join an excursion on the graceful Egyptian sailboats known as 'Felucca.' Explore closer to shore while the gentle breeze and currents peacefully carry us along. During the evening, back on our cruise ship, watch the magnificent Egyptian sunset as we glide past ancient pyramids, colorful bazaars and temples that were already ancient by the time Cleopatra took charge.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Inclusions:** Airport transfers, Flight from Cairo to Aswan, Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian, Aswan, site of the cataracts, Phalio temple, dedicated to Isis and Osiris, Unfinished Obelisk, Felucca sailing, 5-star Nile cruise

## DAY 5 NILE RIVER CRUISE TO LUXOR

This morning we sail north to Kom Ombo, the only temple in Egypt dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. This temple was built for worshipping Horus, but after the number of crocodiles on the island rapidly increased, the temple was demolished and reconstructed to worship Sobek (crocodile shaped god) for protection from the crocodiles. We continue sailing north to Edfu temple, which is also dedicated to the falcon god Horus. It is one of the most completely preserved temples. The divine marriage of Hathor and Horus is depicted on the walls of this temple where it was celebrated once a year. The walls of the mamisi (house of the divine birth) are decorated with scenes depicting the divine birth of Horus the child. Enjoy a Galabiyah party during dinner, where we dress up in traditional Egyptian robes, as we continue sailing north to Luxor.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Inclusions:** 5-star Nile cruise, Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian, Kom Ombo temple dedicated to Horus and Sobek, Edfu Temple, dedicated to the falcon god Horus, Galabiyah party (Egyptian gown)

## DAY 6 NILE RIVER CRUISE | VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Today we cross the Nile to the West Bank. Our first stop will be the Valley of the Kings, where we visit colorful tombs that were carved out of rocky cliffs to safeguard the mummies and their rich furnishings from grave-robbers. Our next stop will be Queen Hatshepsut's Temple. Wanting to honor her father (God Amun), she asked her architect not to spare any effort in making this the best of its kind. Visit Memnon Colossi on the way back to the East Bank. After lunch, we will visit Karnack temple, a vast open-air museum. It is a group of temples surrounded by one enclosure wall that is dedicated to the god Amon-Raw. Approximately 30 pharaohs contributed to its building. In the evening we'll visit Luxor temple. It was completely buried in sand for many centuries, allowing it to be one of the most well-preserved temples. The temple has many beautifully decorated columns, a huge open court, a massive façade, a huge pylon and two seated statues of Ramses II.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Inclusions:** Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian, Valley of the Kings, Queen Hatshepsut's temple, Memnon Colossi, Karnack temple, open-air museum, Luxor Temple, Statues of Ramses II



**DAY 7**

**NILE RIVER CRUISE | FLIGHT TO CAIRO**

Today we disembark from our Nile Cruise but retain all the unforgettable memories of scenery and beautiful temples. Fly from Luxor to Cairo where we will spend our last day. Explore the Egyptian Museum, housing the world's largest collection of Pharaonic relics. Marvel at the enormous sarcophagi, statues, jewelry, and the magnificent golden masterpieces of King Tut. This evening enjoy an authentic Egyptian farewell dinner, one of the many highlights of our tour and a wonderful finale.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [Lunch](#), [Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [Airport transfers](#), [Flight from Luxor to Cairo](#), [Tours guided by a local English-speaking historian](#), [Visit Egyptian Museum](#), [Home hosted authentic Egyptian farewell dinner](#)

**DAY 8**

**TRAVEL HOME**

Today we say our good-byes to Egypt. After enjoying our last group breakfast, transfer to Cairo airport to board our flights home.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare](#)

# PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey Adventurer!

Egypt is a fascinating country that is steeped in history and culture. Cairo, the capital city, is a bustling metropolis that is home to some of the country's most iconic landmarks, such as the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. A Nile River cruise is an excellent way to explore the ancient sites that dot the riverbanks, from the Temple of Luxor to the city of Aswan. The Valley of the Kings, located on the west bank of the Nile, is a must-visit destination for any traveler to Egypt where visitors can explore the tombs of ancient pharaohs. The King Tut exhibit at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo is also a must-see attraction for anyone interested in ancient Egyptian history. With its rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes, Egypt is a destination that should be on every traveler's bucket list.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Educational

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: [www.aesu.com/aspects-awt](http://www.aesu.com/aspects-awt)



**ACTIVITY LEVEL: RELAXED**

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

## TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

## HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$695 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

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**SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.  
I ABSOLUTELY LOVED EVERYTHING!**

”

- past traveler

# BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

**EXCLUSIONS:** These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

**AIRFARES** are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE:** All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at [www.aesu.com](http://www.aesu.com).



# UNIVERSITY DISCLAIMER

## Michigan State University Alumni Office Disclaimer Spartan Pathways Travel Program:

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office or MSUAO) and the Spartan Pathways Travel Program is not the Tour Operator. The MSUAO is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The MSUAO acts only as a sponsor with respect to the travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in providing services to participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the MSUAO shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, epidemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention, or other causes beyond its control. The MSUAO shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the Tour Operator may substitute hotels of similar quality. The Tour Operator may postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The MSUAO or the Tour Operator may decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. By embarking upon travel, the participant voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Participant is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry force majeure, bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility participant may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Participant is advised to consider obtaining appropriate insurance coverage against these risks. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above. The MSUAO partners with other universities and alumni from other universities will be on many departures. While some of the Spartan Pathway's tours are exclusive to just MSU alumni, on many of the tours we partner with other universities/organizations that have travel programs. Space allotments for these tours are given to each university and after a guaranteed time allotted for reservations, available space is opened to all universities/organizations. Therefore, some departures may have universities with greater numbers of alumni on the tour than MSU.