WILD WOMEN expeditions

HIGHLIGHTS OF EGYPT EXTENSION

5 DAYS

For more information please contact: adventure@wildwomenexpeditions.com or call 1 (888) 993-1222.



Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport (CAI), retrieve your luggage and proceed to the Arrivals area. Look for a driver holding a sign that says "WILD WOMEN EXPEDITIONS". They will assist you in obtaining your Visa and luggage.

Accommodations: Sofitel Al Gazeerah, Cario



After breakfast at the hotel we'll go on a walking tour of Islamic Cairo. The tour will take approx 1.5- 2 hours. In this pocket of the city, we'll marvel at ancient monuments constructed by the Fatimid caliphs who founded the city of Cairo in the 11th century. It's a bustling and buzzing center of worship, sweet shops, mopeds delivering fast food, distracted pedestrians with bundles of cotton being wheeled by. Yes, there are a lot of honking horns and animated vendors hollering

out with offers of grilled corn or sugarcane juice.

On the thronging main street of Al Muizz, we'll witness the collision of modern expansion and heritage witnessed in the centuries-old Islamic architecture. Our walk will include old medieval city gates like Bab al-Zuwayla and Bab Al Fetouh ('The Gate of Conquest') which was built in 1087. The flanking towers are an imposing 23 m (75 ft)! Bab al-Zuwayla was constructed a few years later (1091-92)-these gates are two of the three remaining gates of Fatimid Cairo.

After the sensory rush and crash course in North African architecture and minarets, we'll linger over lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy our first big taste of Egypt.

WILD WOMEN expeditions After lunch we'll have a tour of Cairo museum in Tahrir Square. Doing inventory of the artifacts here would require a lifetime! The collection is incredible-we'll be sure to visit the treasures of the young pharaoh Tutankhamon.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodations: Sonesta Luxor



We'll take advantage of a less-crowded early morning visit to the celebrated Pyramids of Giza which include Cheops, Chephren and Mykerinu. The Pyramid of Cheops (also known as the Great Pyramid of Giza or Pyramid of Khufu) is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact.

During this tour we will have the opportunity to climb inside one of the pyramids,

a truly intimate and overwhelming experience. We'll also visit the regal Great Sphinx and take pause (and a lot of selfies) in front of the famous limestone lion's body with a pharaoh's head adorned in royal headdress. It's one of the world's largest sculptures measuring 73 m(240 ft) long and 20 m (66 ft) high.

Our adrenaline levels will continue to operate on HIGH as we observe the unearthly presence of the pyramids of Giza by camel. On this short camel ride, we'll feel the unforgettable gentle sway of the "ships of the desert". Mounting a camel from its seated position to upright is a ride within itself. Hang on!

Today's tour will also include a visit to the former mortuary Valley Temple which belongs to the Pyramids of Chephren. The fourth dynasty and impossibly intact burial temples bring ancient Egyptian civilization alive in a way that your encyclopedias never could.

WILD WOMEN expeditions We'll swap camel riding stories over lunch in a local restaurant, afterwards we'll head to the Cairo airport for a quick hopper domestic flight to Luxor. After checking into our hotel, <u>Sonesta</u> <u>St. George Luxor</u> (where we'll be staying for the next two nights), we'll take five before gathering for dinner. Be sure to take in the awesome panoramas of the mighty Nile from the hotel's terrace or go for a dip in the outdoor heated pool. The hotel is located in the beating heart of Luxor's shopping district if you want to wander and find some local handicrafts for your cat sitter!

Tonight we will sleep parallel to the storied Nile in the shadows of Kings and Queens!

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodations: <u>Sonesta Luxor</u>



This morning we will explore the West Bank of Luxor with visits to the tombs of the pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings and the rock-cut tombs of the Princes & Queens in the Valley of the Queens. We'll also visit the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut and tour the unbelievable Colossi of Memnon.

After lunch we'll return to the hotel for a rejuvenating sweet mint tea fix or a bracing shower.

This afternoon is all about the red carpet legends: the Temples of Luxor and the Temples of Karnak, Egypt's greatest compound of temples.

Later, we'll feast like Queens and have a royal sleep in Luxor, our last precious night in Egypt's embrace.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodations: Sonesta Luxor

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After breakfast, we'll return to the airport for your flight back to Cairo and connecting flights home. Sigh. Or, alternatively, you can extend your stay and dig deeper into the deep pockets of Cairo! There's the Khan Al-Khalili bazaar, The Cairo Cave Church (St. Simon "The Tanner" Monastery) or the Cairo Tower with its awesome 360s. Or, simply spend a few extra days attempting to find the very best shawarma, lamb kofta kebabs, fiteer (Egyptian pancakes).

Hug your amateur Wild Women Expeditions/Egyptologist-in-training group goodbye-but be sure to make plans for your next destination together!

The flight out of Luxor on Day 5 is subject to change, to accommodate this, please book your departing flight from Cairo International Airport (CAI) after 10PM on Day 5 to account for travel time from Luxor.

If you would prefer to book yourself a night at an airport hotel on Day 5, we recommend: <u>Le</u> <u>Meridien Cairo Airport</u>

Meals Included: Breakfast



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All authentic meals from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 5
- 4 nights of luxe accommodation in 5 star hotels
- Awesome female, English-speaking Egyptian Egyptologist guides
- Airport transfers for both arrival and departure (Wild Women will arrange your airport transfer to the first night's hotel or any pre-trip hotel)
- All entry fees to museums, temples and activities listed in the itinerary
- Your domestic flight (Cairo-Luxor-Cairo)-this will be arranged by Wild Women

The Highlights of Egypt extension dates seamlessly follow the Ultimate Jordan trip, making it super convenient and easy to visit Egypt after your Jordan experience.

You will need to purchase your own flight from Amman, Jordan to Cairo, Egypt - Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) to Cairo International Airport (CAI). Plan to arrive in Cairo on Day 1 of this extension.

The extension begins at the airport where you will be picked up to start this new adventure. Thorough details on arrival, and rendezvous point will be delivered in your 30 day pre trip bulletin.

We recommend booking a later flight arriving to Cairo on Day 1. This would allow you to relax a little longer in Jordan at the Dead Sea before flying to Cairo.

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

Wild Women Expeditions and our local partners intend to adhere to the described itinerary. This is only a general guide to follow on your tour of the region. Our itineraries are subject to change, as we cannot predict the weather or other environmental conditions. We are continually striving to make improvements to all our trips based on feedback from Wild Women members, guides, partners, and other research. We reserve the right to alter itineraries based on the above at any time.

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*Itinerary version as of February 1, 2024.