OPTION 4

July 26 – August 3, 2027

6-NIGHT NILE RIVER CRUISE PLUS TWO NIGHTS IN ASWAN

(Cruise from Aswan to Luxor plus 9-night optional cruise package to Cairo)

Aboard the *ms Darakum*
Cruise through Egyptian history on the luxurious, Moroccan-themed m.s. Darakum. Your immersion in Egyptian culture begins with a two-night stay at the Mövenpick Resort in Aswan, near ancient Egypt’s southern frontier. You’ll visit Abu Simbel, then board the Darakum for a six-night venture down the Nile to Luxor, the spiritual center of the kingdom.

When we arrive in Luxor for the Eclipse, you’ll have the option of viewing this unforgettable phenomenon from the Darakum, or from the renown gardens of Luxor’s historic Winter Palace Hotel.

If you’ve dreamed of experiencing Egypt, join us and Sky & Telescope on a fascinating journey to eclipse fun!

Per person pricing (based on double occupancy) for our 8-night event is:

- $4,350 for a standard cabin
- $5,750 for a deluxe cabin
- $7,750 for a Panorama Suite
- $8,250 for a Deck 4 Owner’s Suite
- $8,750 for an Owner’s Suite

For further details please visit the CABIN & SHIP INFO tab. All government and port taxes, and meals are included. In addition, there is a $775 pp fee for our astronomy and ANCIENT EGYPT LECTURES.

Add on our optional 5-day TOURING PACKAGE, $2,650 pp for 21 separate site visits where small groups (where necessary, as in visiting deeply buried tombs) will be accompanied by a professional/Egyptologist tour guide (all entrance fees — some quite substantial for the unique access we will provide — as well as “gifts” for official gatekeepers, are included).

The six (6) 90-minute cocktail-parties package (includes an open bar) is an additional $210 pp. Add’l pp fee: Non-refundable Booking Service Fee ($175). All prices and fees are detailed on the TERMS & CONDITIONS tab. Use our PRICING CALCULATOR for a quick price quote. NOTE: Program/schedule is subject to change.
## OPTION 4 Itinerary

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>NOTES / HIGHLIGHTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>MON., JULY 26</td>
<td><strong>DAY 1: ARRIVE ASWAN</strong></td>
<td>Two nights in the Mövenpick Aswan Hotel (images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE., JULY 27</td>
<td><strong>DAY 2: FREE TIME in ASWAN</strong></td>
<td>Last night in the Mövenpick Aswan Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED., JULY 28</td>
<td><strong>DAY 3: BOARD OUR CRUISE SHIP</strong></td>
<td>Visit Abu Simbel (images); (ss DARAKUM images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THUR., JULY 29</td>
<td><strong>DAY 4: ASWAN --&gt; KOM OMBO --&gt; EDFU</strong></td>
<td>High Dam and Philae Temple (images); Kom Ombo Temple (images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI., JULY 30</td>
<td><strong>DAY 5: EDFU --&gt; ESNA --&gt; LUXOR</strong></td>
<td>Edfu Temple (images), Esna Temple (images), and Luxor Temple (images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT., JULY 31</td>
<td><strong>DAY 6: VALLEY OF THE QUEENS (LUXOR)</strong></td>
<td>Tomb of Nefertari (images), Medinat Habu, and Ramesseum (images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN., AUG. 1</td>
<td><strong>DAY 7: VALLEY OF THE KINGS (LUXOR)</strong></td>
<td>+ Karnak Temple (images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON., AUG. 2</td>
<td><strong>DAY 8: SOLAR ECLIPSE (LUXOR)</strong></td>
<td>approx 12 noon: 6 minutes, 20+ seconds (map)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE., AUG. 3</td>
<td><strong>FLY HOME (if not on the OPTIONAL CRUISE)</strong></td>
<td>Take the optional 9-night cruise to Cairo (SCHEDULE) (MAP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.*
OPTION 4  6-Night Nile River Cruise Map

CO-PRODUCED BY:
SKY & TELESCOPE  InsightCruises

Mövenpick Resort Aswan
OPTION 4 — Two nights, pre-cruise, included with your stay; all meals included

MÖVENPICK RESORT ASWAN
Your stay in Aswan is anchored at the Mövenpick Resort Aswan on Elephantine Island. A 10-minute shuttle boat links the hotel with the bustle of Aswan’s market and historical center. The Movenpick feels like a contemporary hotel in a secluded oasis. It is surrounded by lovely floral gardens, a quiet, broad natural lawn with a bird blind, and a large organic vegetable garden and orchard, The Farm.

All of the Movenpick's rooms have a balcony with views of the Nile — Aswan City (population 350,000) or the desert hills beyond. The hotel offers you swimming pools, bars, a tailor specializing in traditional Egyptian clothing, koi and turtle ponds, walking paths, bird watching, and memorable pastel-washed sunsets.
Mövenpick Resort Aswan (continued)
OPTION 4 Speaker(s) (NOTE: including onto Cairo for the add-on extension)

DENISE M. DOXEY, PH.D.

Dr. Denise M. Doxey is an Egyptologist and Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Denise received her M.Phil. in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and her Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching experience includes Egyptology courses at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University.

She has participated in excavations in Egypt at the sites of Abydos and Saqqara. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author or co-author of five books, most recently Arts of Ancient Nubia and Jewels of Ancient Nubia. She is a sought after lecturer for both academic conferences and public lectures. Currently, she is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, the leading North American organization promoting research on Egyptian history and culture. She also serves on the Board of the International Council of Museum’s International Committee for Egyptology.

In her more than 25 years as a museum professional, Dr. Doxey has overseen the renovation of galleries for Predynastic and Early Dynastic art, Old Kingdom art, and Middle Kingdom funerary art. She curated special exhibitions, including co-curating Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC and serving as curator for Ancient Nubia Now. She is currently the curator for an international traveling exhibition featuring art of Nubia.

KEVIN B. MARVEL, PH.D.

Dr. Kevin B. Marvel, is the Executive Officer of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), the foremost research organization for astronomers, planetary scientists, and heliophysicists. After earning two B.S. degrees (astronomy and physics) from the University of Arizona, an M.S. and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University, and postdoctoral research at Caltech, he began work with the AAS in 1998 and took up his current duties in July 2006. He has written two books, including Astronomy Made Simple, and has authored research papers mainly focused on interpreting the observations of astrophysical masers around both young and old stars.

Dr. Marvel has a strong connection to Sky & Telescope magazine (a publication of the AAS), having been a reader from a young age. In fact, he decided to attend the University of Arizona after noting how prominently it was featured in the magazine. It was the honor of his lifetime to be able to facilitate the acquisition of Sky & Telescope by the AAS in 2019, and he deeply enjoys the ongoing challenges of making the magazine even more successful and impactful than it was pre-acquisition.

Throughout his career he has been dedicated to bringing the excitement of astronomical discovery to the public, from his first days browbeating his family to come outside on a cold Texas winter evening to observe the planet Venus in his brand new 2.5” refracting telescope (thank you Santa!), to subsequent experience showing Comet Halley to tens of thousands of people with the telescopes on the campus of the University of Arizona, to his current role advocating for astrophysical research with the nation’s policy makers and overseeing the operations of the AAS.

He and his wife, Jennifer Kerns, M.D., M.S.H.S., are both passionate sailors and gardeners — she growing primarily rare heirloom tomatoes and he New Mexico Big Jim Peppers. Their young son Graham is looking forward to seeing his second total eclipse on this once-in-a-lifetime trip down the ancient Nile river, by which time he will be a well-behaved 10 years old.
The Mövenpick m.s Darakum, with 52 spacious cabins, is one of the largest vessels cruising the Nile River between Cairo and Aswan.

Its Moroccan-inspired design makes it stand out and it offers an unforgettable journey while cruising through 7,000 years of history. A variety of recreational activities are available including a swimming pool, sun deck with recreational area, and a gym. Our 6-night cruise will be approximately 130 miles long.
m.s. Darakum (continued)
**OPTION 4 Nile River Cruise Option: Touring Package**

On your cruise from Aswan to Luxor, you will visit the 21 sites referenced below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are included in your optional $2,650 Tour Package (includes the flights to/from Abu Simbel). Four (4) of these sites require “Special Access” which we have secured.*

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**PHILAE TEMPLE** — The Temples of Philae on Aswan’s Agilika Island were rescued like Abu Simbel from submersion due to Aswan Dam. Philae is a memory of the region’s worship of Isis, the goddess of magic and maternity, enduring through Greco-Roman times and as a pagan vestige in the Byzantine Empire. Set foot in the temple and experience firsthand the beauty of the buildings and its undetectable relocation adventure.

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**KARNAK TEMPLE** — At least 30 Egyptian rulers from ~2,000BCE to ~300BCE built, modified, demolished, and moved parts of Karnak Temple. There’s so much see. Karnak can activate your mind’s eye, too. Armed with Dr. Belmonte’s archaeoastronomy tips, you can picture Karnak’s orientation to the Winter Solstice, to the northern Milky Way, and to the topography around you.

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**NUBIAN MUSEUM** — The Nubian Museum presents cultural gems and touchstones from Nubia’s prehistory into the 20th century. The region of Nubia, known in ancient times as Kush, spanned the Egyptian-Sudanese border and was greatly affected — a large swath of its land submerged — when Aswan dam was built. Get to know the history of a mighty empire with a visit paying respects to Egypt’s now vanished neighbor.

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Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.

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*Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.*
EDFU TEMPLE — It’s easy for Edfu to blend in as yet another Egyptian site that checks many boxes: massive, pharaoh smiting the enemy on the facade, halls of columns, lots of side rooms. Dig in to Edfu a bit, and heighten the experience: the hall of twelve columns refers to the Book of the Underworld and the twelve hours of the night; ceilinged halls help you picture the building in use; the carving of “The Stretching of the Cord” unifies Egyptian astronomy and architecture. All this and more will give you a memorable sense of Edfu Temple as a working building, used by humans.

KOMO OMBO TEMPLE — The first rule of temples: Location, location, location. Kom Ombo lives in popular media as an elegant Greco-Roman temple set on a high Nile embankment. You’ll tune in to its nuances: depictions of the pharaoh boating in a marsh; an astronomical procession on the beams of the hall; and reliefs of (perhaps) early surgical instruments. Come for the photo op and take away glimmerings of early technology.

ESNA TEMPLE — Venture into the entry hall of the Temple of Khnum, and see the vibrant results of its ongoing restoration. The Temple was decorated during the Roman period circa 100 – 300 AD, which means that you’ll be seeing the youngest/most recent body of Egyptian hieroglyphics known. It’s the astronomical ceiling that brings us to Esna, with its unparalleled depiction of lunar phases, and a detailed stellar clock.
TOMB OF NEFERTARI (Special Access Visit) — We go to “The place of beauty”, Ta-Set-Neferu, to experience the rarely seen Tomb of Nefertari, often considered the most beautiful in Egypt. Its vivid colors and beautiful draftsmanship underpin its artistic appeal; astronomy buffs may find its theme of timelessness and eternity thought-provoking.

RAMESSEUM — Designed to remind all who behold it of the greatness of Egypt (and of the modest builder himself), the Ramesseum gives you a picture of the vast wealth of Ramses II. After sizing up the innumerable storehouses, you may be drawn to the astronomical ceiling of the Barque room in the temple, to see civil, religious, and lunar calendars so you sharpen your ancient Egyptian time-telling skills.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION — Get the big picture of the world’s oldest civilization at the NMEC. You can use its artifacts to chart the evolution of Egypt’s culture through prehistoric, pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic eras. You’ll have the opportunity to see the Royal Mummies Hall, resting place of 20 kings and queens of ancient Egypt’s New Kingdom.
VALLEY OF KINGS — Celebrate fulfilled dreams of exploring pharaohs’ tombs, satisfied curiosity, and newly inspired avenues of archaeological inquiry once you trek through the renowned Valley of the Kings.

LUXOR MUSEUM — Choice archaeological artifacts await you at the Luxor Museum. In selecting among statues found at Luxor Temple, relics from Tutankhamun’s tomb, mummies, and professional tools to display, the Museum’s curators focused on quality, not quantity. You’ll get a close look at ancient items and a sense of the society-wide focus on the afterlife.

LUXOR TEMPLE — Get a concrete sense of the resilience of Egyptian culture at Luxor Temple. Fittingly for a symbol of rejuvenation, it has survived floods and foreign invasions to awe visitors with its ancient precision. We’ll visit at dusk for creative photo opportunities.
KING TUT TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Have you glimpsed King Tut’s opulent burial goods in a documentary or at a museum? Now you can picture them together with the narrative paintings you see in Tut’s burial chamber.

KING SETI I TOMB (Special Access Visit) — Seti I’s Tomb served as an inspiration for most later Egyptian tomb art. Its indelible celestial diagrams and stellar clocks will enrich your stargazing forever.

BENI HASSAN (Tombs of Baquet III, Khety, Amenemhet, Khnumhotep) — Time travel to the Middle Kingdom period of Egyptian history at Beni Hassan where regional governors and military figures were buried. Gain a sense of ancient life in the desert, and see scenes of life in the provinces — hunting, wrestling, weaving, baking, fishing, and wine-making.

KING RAMSES V & VI TOMBS (Special Access Visit) — Feast your eyes on two different copies of the Books of Day and Night, paintings of the sky goddess Nut, and the Egyptian astronomy how-to embodied in star clocks. Deepen your feel for the pharaohs’ worldview with a visual study of ancient Egyptian “rocket science”.

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InsightCruises

THE JOURNEY WITHIN

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.
DEIR EL BAHIRI — The temple complex of Hatshepsut must be one of the most beautifully situated buildings anywhere. It was known as the “Sublime of the Sublimes” in ancient Egyptian. Explore its structure and you’ll get an organic sense that the temple is oriented to the winter solstice and The Temple of Amun (Hatshepsut’s claimed father) at Karnak.

DENDERA — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.

TEL EL AMARNA — Today we delve into Amarna, Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti’s city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten’s new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Visit Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten’s bold initiative.

ABU SIMBEL — Visit one of the most recognizable symbols of Egypt, the Temples of Abu Simbel. Renew your sense of wonder and awe at both the ancient and modern engineering that went into its construction and dramatic relocation. Gain a perspective into Ramses II’s human nature when you find an inscription on a main temple buttress: “for the Great Royal Wife Nefertari Meryetmut, for whose sake the (very) sun does shine”.

CO-PRODUCED BY: SKY & TELESCOPE

SITES WITH TOOTHE BORDERS HAVE ASTRONOMICAL INTEREST.
TUNA EL GEBEL (Tombs of Petosiris and Isadora) — See the god Thoth’s many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You’ll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god’s responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you’ll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories.
Luxor, Egypt: Eclipse Day

ABOARD THE MÖVENPICK m.s. DARAKUM, DOCKED AT THE SOFITEL WINTER PALACE HOTEL

On Eclipse Day we’ll take advantage of our very comfortable quarters on the eastern bank of the Nile. Observe six minutes nineteen seconds of totality from the beautiful 17-acre garden of the Sofitel Winter Palace or from the two Sun Decks of our cruise ship. Our viewing prospects are superb, only matched by all the features/amenities you need on a summer day: beverages, luxurious surroundings, and plenty of shade.

Post eclipse we’ll relax a bit, have lunch, and round out our day with a lecture.

Duration of totality: 6 minutes, 19 seconds. Luxor is less than one hour south (by air) of Cairo. Map made by Xavier M. Jubier.
Join us August 3–11, 2027 for a 5-night Nile River cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights in Cairo to experience the culture, archaeology, communities, and daily details that make Cairo the informal capital of the Arab world.

Cap your Luxor Eclipse adventure with a cruise north to Cairo where you’ll spend three full days amidst the ancient treasures and modern bustle of the Cairo region. Visit the Pyramids at Giza and their ancestors at Saqqara; see Egypt’s archaeologic treasures in new and modernized comfortable settings. Graze your way through the 14th-century bazaar, Khan Khalili, and walk through the historic heart of Cairo’s Christian, Jewish, and Islamic communities.

Whether this is your first trip to Egypt or another chapter in your explorations as a confirmed Egypt buff, gain a sense of why ancient Egypt has such a powerful impact on the imagination through time.
OPTION 4 Cruise to Cairo add-on aboard the *m.s. Hamees*
OVERVIEW AND PRICING

Price is $6,499 (Standard cabin) or $6,999 (Superior cabin) per person (pp) for nine (9) nights onboard the m.s. Hamees (add 50% premium for singles — or share and pay no premium!). Nile River cruise package price includes:
- 5-night cruise to Cairo and then four (4) nights onboard the Hamees while docked in Cairo; all meals (breakfast only on day of departure); our TOURING PACKAGE; our EXTENDED LECTURE SERIES (three lecturers onboard delivering about a dozen talks/Q&As); entrance to all touring sites and museums with all transportation to/from the Hamees; and all taxes, fees, gratuities, and port charges. Add a drink package for $315, which includes an open bar at our nine (9) 90-minute cocktail parties. NOTE: Program is subject to change. There are only 70 cabins on the Hamees.

Join us in Cairo and deepen your insight into the richness of ancient Egypt's civilization.

Disembark the Hamees as our Nile River cruise ends Thursday, August 12, after breakfast.

### OPTION 4 Cruise to Cairo Add-On Itinerary

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<th>ARRIVE</th>
<th>DEPART</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUE., AUG 3</td>
<td>DAY 9 (CRUISE DAY 1): DENDERA</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch onboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED., AUG 4</td>
<td>DAY 10 (CRUISE DAY 2): ABYDOS</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Visit the Temple of Seti I</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR., AUG 5</td>
<td>DAY 11 (CRUISE DAY 3): AMARNA</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Amarna Site Museum &amp; Visitor Center</td>
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<td>FRI., AUG 6</td>
<td>DAY 12 (CRUISE DAY 4): AMARNA and TUNA EL GEBEL</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>The Royal Tomb and the The Great Palace of Akhenaten, more</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT., AUG 7</td>
<td>DAY 13 (CRUISE DAY 5): BENI HASSAN</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Tomb of Khnumhotep II, more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN., AUG 8</td>
<td>DAY 14 (CRUISE DAY 6): ARRIVE CAIRO</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Islamic Cairo</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON., AUG 9</td>
<td>DAY 15 (CRUISE DAY 7): DAY 2 IN CAIRO</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>The Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqara</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE., AUG 10</td>
<td>DAY 16 (CRUISE DAY 8): DAY 3 IN CAIRO</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED., AUG 11</td>
<td>DAY 17 (CRUISE DAY 9): DAY 4 IN CAIRO</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THUR., AUG 12</td>
<td>DAY 18: DISEMBARK</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fly home anytime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Egyptian sites will be visited in the morning (before 12 Noon approximately) or after 4pm, unless not possible.
J. KELLY BEATTY

Kelly Beatty joined the staff of Sky & Telescope in 1974 and served as the editor of Night Sky, a spinoff magazine for beginning stargazers, in 2004–07. He retired from full-time work in 2018 but remains actively involved in many Sky & Telescope articles, tours, and other projects. Specializing in planetary science and space exploration, Kelly has been honored twice by the Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society. In 2005 he received the Harold Masursky Award for meritorious service, and in 2009 he was honored with the inaugural Jonathan Eberhart Journalism Award. He is also a recipient of the American Geophysical Union’s Cowen Award for Sustained Achievement in Science Journalism (2009).

You’ll occasionally hear his interviews and guest commentaries on The Weather Channel and National Public Radio, and his work has appeared in numerous other magazines, newspapers, and encyclopedias. In fact, Kelly enjoys speaking to audiences of all ages and interest levels about his passion for astronomy. He observes when he can through one of his eight telescopes, and he is active nationally in the fight against light pollution.

Kelly hails from Madera, California. He holds a Bachelors degree in geology from the California Institute of Technology and a Master’s degree in science journalism from Boston University. During the 1980s he was among the first Western journalists to gain firsthand access to the Soviet space program. Asteroid 2925 Beatty was named on the occasion of his marriage in 1983, and in 1986 he was chosen one of the 100 semifinalists for NASA’s Journalist in Space program.

DENISE M. DOXEY, PH.D.

Dr. Denise M. Doxey is an Egyptologist and Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Denise received her M.Phil. in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and her Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching experience includes Egyptology courses at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. She has participated in excavations in Egypt at the sites of Abydos and Saqqara. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author or co-author of five books, most recently Arts of Ancient Nubia and Jewels of Ancient Nubia. She is a sought after lecturer for both academic conferences and public lectures. Currently, she is Vice President of the Board of Governors of the American Research Center in Egypt, the leading North American organization promoting research on Egyptian history and culture. She also serves on the Board of the International Council of Museum’s International Committee for Egyptology.

In her more than 25 years as a museum professional, Dr. Doxey has overseen the renovation of galleries for Predynastic and Early Dynastic art, Old Kingdom art, and Middle Kingdom funerary art. She curated special exhibitions, including co-curating Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC and serving as curator for Ancient Nubia Now. She is currently the curator for an international traveling exhibition featuring art of Nubia.

JUAN ANTONIO BELMONTE, PH.D.

Juan Antonio Belmonte, Ph.D. is a Research Professor of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), where he lectures and investigates in exoplanetology and cultural astronomy. He holds a degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of La Laguna, where he has also studied Egyptian hieroglyphs. Prof. Belmonte has been Director of the Science and Cosmos Museum of Tenerife (MCC, 1995–2000), President of the European Society for Astronomy in Culture (SEAC, 2005–2011), the International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC, 2017–2020) and the Time Allocation Committee (CAT) of the Canary Islands Observatories (2003–2012). He received in 2012 the “Carlos Jaschek” Award in Cultural Astronomy for his contribution to the field. He is Advisory Editor of the Journal for the History of Astronomy.

He is author or co-author or more than 200 scientific papers and author or editor or more than 20 books on these topics, among them In Search of Cosmic Order: Selected Essays on Egyptian Archaeoastronomy (2009), with Mosalam Shaltout, and Pirámides, Templos y Estrellas: Arqueología y Astronomía en el Egipto Antiguo (2012, in Spanish); he is finishing, with José Lull, Ancient Egyptian Astronomy: a Cultural Approach (to be published by Springer in 2023).

For over a decade, he has been deeply involved in the development of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative within UNESCO and the IAU. Since August 2021, he has been President of the IAU Commission C4 “World Heritage and Astronomy”. A tireless field researcher, he has carried out cultural astronomy fieldwork in the Megalithism of the Atlantic Façade, the Indian temples, Caral in Peru, Nabataean Petra, Hattusha in Turkey, Easter Island, and the Amazigh World from his base in the Canary Islands, among many other places.

Prof. Belmonte has been coordinator of the Egyptian-Spanish Mission for Archaeoastronomy of ancient Egypt and a member of the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Heracleopolis Magna. For 20 years, he has performed research fieldwork searching for and documenting astronomical relationships in more than one hundred archaeological sites in Egypt, from Nubia to the Delta, and from Siwa Oasis to Sherabit el Khadim, in the Sinai.
OPTION 4 Nile River Cruise Option: Touring Package
(on the Nile River Cruise add-on from Luxor to Cairo*)

On your optional add-on cruise from Luxor to Cairo, you will visit the 13 sites below. These site visits, as well as all entrance fees, are included in your optional post-Luxor Nile River cruise add-on package.

**ABYDOS** — Examine the superb bas reliefs and Cosmology of Nut and walk among some of the earliest astronomically aligned buildings. We hope the ruins of what may be the world’s oldest brewery will be accessible on our visit, too.

**DENDERA** — Be overwhelmed (in a good way!) at the intensity of ancient worship of Hathor, the multifaceted goddess of love, fertility, the sky, festivity, and fate. Create a lasting impression of the Zodiacal art of Dendera.

**AMARNA SITE MUSEUM** — Get the lay of the land to put Amarna’s ruins in context with a visit to the Amarna Site Museum. See models that interpret daily life and the buildings of Akhenaten’s city. You’ll have a presentation on Akhenaten and Nefertiti his wife which enriches your exploration of their royal city.

Archaeological sites go under frequent restoration and repair and some may not be available to us when we visit in 2027.

Sites with toothed borders have astronomical interest.
TUNA EL GEBEL (Tombs of Petosiris and Isadora) —
See the god Thoth’s many duties documented at Tuna el Gebel. You’ll visit the Greco Roman tomb of Petosiris, the chief priest of the god Thoth. This god’s responsibilities included maintaining the universe, judging the dead, and overseeing systems of magic, writing, and science. Thoth was symbolized as both a baboon and an ibis, so you’ll add animal mummies to your Egypt memories. The Tomb of Isadora adds a poignant note to the visit, containing the mummy of a young Greek woman who legendarily drowned seeking to meet her lover, and was deeply mourned by her father.

ASHMUNEIN (Temple of Thoth) —
You’ll see the surviving architectural elements of the Temple of Thoth at Khmunu/Hermopolis. This was the main cult center for the worship of Thoth, who was god of wisdom and writing and patron of scribes among many other roles. A key ancient significance remains unseen — Khmunu is legendarily site of the mound of creation and of the first sunrise.

AMARNA (Royal Tomb, Palace, Temple of Aten, and more) —
Today we delve in to Amarna, Pharoah Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti’s city designed for the worship of the sun disk Aten, center of Akhenaten’s new religion. Learn about the distinctive naturalistic style of Amarna art, with a focus on the royal family, not the gods, the depiction of movement, and the use of sunk relief. Walk the streets of Amarna and get a sense of the vision and scope of Akhenaten’s bold initiative.
OPTION 4 Nile River Cruise Option: Touring Package

BENI HASSAN (Tombs of Baquet III, Khety, Amenemhet, Khnumhotep) — Time travel to the Middle Kingdom period of Egyptian history at Beni Hassan where regional governors and military figures were buried. Gain a sense of ancient life in the desert, and see scenes of life in the provinces — hunting, wrestling, weaving, baking, fishing, and wine-making.

GIZA PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX — Visit the Great Pyramid and its Old Kingdom royal kin, the only surviving members of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Getting your bearings on the Giza Plateau gives you a sense of the precision (achieved with astronomical skills) with which the Egyptians aligned the Pyramids to the cardinal directions and to symbolic topographic features.

ISLAMIC CAIRO WITH SULTAN HASSAN MOSQUE, MOHAMED ALI MOSQUE, AND KHAN EL KHALILI — Venture into medieval Egyptian history on a visit to the strategically positioned Citadel of Saladin, an imposing fortification. Study the details of mosques from two eras, and develop an eye for Islamic architecture.

SAQQARA WITH PYRAMIDS OF DJOSER, UNAS (Special Access Visit), AND TETI; AND MASTABA OF TI (Special Access Visit) — Visit the ancestor of the Pyramids of Giza — the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser. Venture into the small Pyramid of Unas, and see the earliest known Pyramid Texts, spells guiding the pharaoh to the afterlife. The Pyramid of Teti offers you a written mention of Sirius, Orion, and the Big Dipper, solidifying your proof of the astronomical underpinnings of Giza and Saqqara.
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AT Tahrir Square (aka Museum of Egyptian Antiquities) — A fabulous collection of antiquities focused on Ancient Egypt. Dedicated guides will curate our visit so you can be assured you have seen the most important artifacts.

OLD CAIRO WITH COPTIC CAIRO, BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE, AND COPTIC MUSEUM — Coptic Cairo, enmeshed in an area with Persian and Roman roots, shows you another facet of Cairo’s swirling history. See the Hanging Church and other Coptic churches with their noted icons and legendary ties to Jesus. Ben Ezra Synagogue is a renown former repository of secular and religious Jewish manuscripts. You’ll get a sense of the cosmopolitan nature of Old Cairo, and experience the hustle and bustle of Cairo.

GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM) AT GIZA — GEM is home to 100,000+ artifacts of Egypt’s ancient history! Immerse yourself in the richness of Egyptian culture and put a memorable concluding chapter on your eclipse adventure.
BECOME AN EXPERT

The best resources we’ve found for learning about Ancient Egypt are the three online courses published by The Great Courses: *History of Ancient Egypt* (Bob Brier, Ph.D.), *Great Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt* (Bob Brier, Ph.D.), and *A Guided Tour of Ancient Egypt* (Melinda Hartwig, Ph.D.).

Watch the first lecture (30 minutes) of each course! Please email info@insightcruises.com for details.

While you could purchase the individual DVDs, we recommend buying an annual subscription to Wondrium ($20 per month after a free 2-week trial). Here you can access the entire 40-lecture courses, plus enjoy hundreds of other titles we are certain you will find utterly mind-blowing (We have no affiliation, nor do we get any commission if you purchase this — we are just long-time very happy customers). Searching for “Egypt” produced dozens of links (see image below) from Wondrium.com and all are available for you to stream (in very high quality) whenever you wish. Two years of an online/streaming subscription is much less than purchasing the three DVDs.
PRICING & TERMS. There are five (5) components to our per-person (pp) pricing, two of which are optional “add-ons” (the first three are mandatory):

1. Your cruise and hotel accommodations include all of your meals EXCEPT breakfast on your day of arrival and lunch and dinner on your day of departure.
2. Taxes, port charges, fees, and gratuities:
   a. Government taxes and hotel taxes are included
   b. Non-refundable Booking Service Fee ($175 pp)
   c. Insight Cruises’ tour leader gratuities ($80 pp), and cruise/hotel gratuities (for the housekeeping, cabin steward, and dining room staff, $15 pp, per day for eight days or $120)
3. Our LECTURES program ($775)
4. Our optional 5-day Luxor TOURING Package ($2,650 for 21 separate site visits; plus 595 for your professional/Egyptologist tour-guides’ gratuities). The groups will be small (where necessary, as in visiting deeply buried sites, no more than a dozen or so people) with one professional/Egyptologist tour guide per group.
5. Our cocktail-party package ($210), which includes a one-hour, open-bar, cocktail party for all six evenings.

The cruise is six nights; the pre-cruise hotel stay is two nights. All pricing is per person (pp). Cruise pricing is based on double occupancy. 75% single surcharge, or share with no surcharge, for the standard cabins.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
- 20% deposit payment, plus the $175 pp Non-refundable Booking Service Fee mentioned above, along with a completed reservation form confirms your space.
- A 2nd deposit payment of 10% pp is due August 1, 2022. (If you book after August 1, 2022 your initial deposit will be 30%). Combined, these two payments (30%) represent your “Deposit”.
- A 3rd advance payment of 10% pp is due August 1, 2023. (If you book after August 1, 2023 your initial deposit and advance payment will be 40%)
- A 4th advance payment of 10% pp is due August 1, 2024. (If you book after August 1, 2024 your initial deposit and advance payment will be 50%)
- A 5th advance payment of 10% pp is due August 1, 2025. (If you book after August 1, 2025 your initial deposit and advance payment will be 60%)
- A 6th advance payment of 10% pp is due August 1, 2026. (If you book after August 1, 2026 your initial deposit and advance payment will be 70%)
The balance is due (“Final Payment date”) on January 1, 2027.

Payments may be made by check, money order, or major credit card (Visa, Master Card, Discover, Diners Club, or American Express). Checks are to be made payable to Insight Cruises, in U.S. dollars only, and drawn on a U.S. bank. There is a $25 charge for returned checks. After your first deposit (20% or 30%), any credit card payments Insight Cruises processes will be assessed a Credit Card Surcharge of 3%. Payments by check or wire transfer are not subject to this surcharge.

All prices are subject to change until your booking is confirmed. We will notify you of any price changes, and await your acceptance, before your reservation is considered “booked” and confirmed. Before June 1, 2027, either party may cancel the booking within 14 days of Initial Deposit (with no penalty other than the Non-refundable Booking Service Fee (of $175, if you are the one who cancels), for any reason. We’ll send you an email confirmation and an itemized invoice (“DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT CONFIRMATION”) via email within three (3) business days of your Deposit. You must return a signed copy of your DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT CONFIRMATION form within 30 days of booking or your reservation is subject to cancellation. If you do not return this form by the FINAL PAYMENT date, your reservation will automatically be cancelled and cancellation penalties will be assessed. You will be sent reminders via email before your reservation is cancelled.

A signed Insurance Waiver is due in the Insight Cruises office upon issuance and no later than the Final Payment Date. Your booking will be cancelled unless we receive this “paperwork”. Roundtrip air between Cairo or Luxor and your home gateway is NOT included. Please see (further down) the section WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THE COSTS for the complete list.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. 75% for the standard cabins.

Or share a room! The price is the same as the pp double occupancy rate. Be sure to select the option on the online booking form that asks, “Do you want to share a room with another Insight Cruiser?” NOTE: Only standard cabins are available to share. Share room assignments are generally made at time of ticket issuance — shared assignments are subject to change. You will be matched with members of the same gender, and we factor in age and geography where possible. Assuming space is available, shares will be guaranteed if you book prior to January 1, 2026.

3RD- AND 4TH-PERSON RATES. Varies based on your room type. Please call 650-787-5665 for a quote.

ADDITIONAL PAID SERVICES
- Credit Card Surcharge (3%) — After your initial booking payment and/or deposit, any credit card payments Insight Cruises processes will be assessed a Credit Card Surcharge of 3%. Payments by check or wire transfer are not subject to this surcharge.
- Air Booking ($400 per booking) — this fee is assessed for obtaining one air quote and booking your roundtrip air. (You will receive a quote for the best pricing and itinerary available.)

This fee covers our cost to maintain your flight itinerary on your personal itinerary and to arrange your seat assignments. Flight schedules can change and when they do we notify you of all itinerary changes. If you are looking for a deluxe, customized service, including help with all of your travel arrangements, Insight Cruises can provide this service. Please see below (“ALL ABOUT AIRFARE”, page 3) for the details.
- Refund ($75 per refund transaction plus 4% of transaction value if the original charge was to a credit card) or 1% if the original charge was a check. Includes refunds after payment for services you remove (such as cancel additional hotel nights)
- Third-Party Payor ($50 per credit card) — this fee is imposed if someone other than the people traveling is paying all or part of your event cost.
- Foreign Shipping Fees — there is a foreign shipping charge of $65 (to cover the shipping of paperwork) per foreign residence ($35 per Canadian residence).
- No Email Access ($250) — this is assessed for those clients who do not have access to email or those who wish to receive all notices and updates from Insight Cruises via the Post Office. Add an additional $25 for those residing outside the United States. The service below (“Over-the-Phone-Booking”) is included with this $250 charge.
- Over-the-Phone Booking ($50) — this is assessed for those new clients who “call in their booking” as opposed to filling out the online booking form. If you are a past client, because we already have your demographic data, we are happy to take your booking over the phone or via email at no charge.
- Last-Minute Changes/Additions ($50 – $150 per change/addition pp) — this will be assessed for any last-minute (within 21 days of the Day Your Travel Begins) service that is provided to you. For most last-minute changes the fee is $50 (examples: minor name corrections or last-minute additions and/or cancellations) but if the change or request is complicated and involved, the fee can be as much as $150.
- Repeated Declined Credit Card(s) ($50) — this may be assessed if two or more credit card transactions are declined. The above fees are non-refundable and will be collected at the time of adding our services.

EMAIL SERVICES & FEES. Insight Cruises sends guests information and answers questions primarily via email. Using software we have a clear picture of the number of emails exchanged with guests — and on guests’ behalf — to make or change reservations, research and answer questions, and provide necessary information to guests across the trip-planning cycle. (The average number of emails for an average booking of two people is 27.) We understand that if you book hotel or air through Insight Cruises, this may lead to a predictable number of additional email exchanges.

Some guests’ trip preparation involves more emails and...
questions than others, whether due to the scope, duration, and complexity of travel or to personal communication or planning style. And some customers just want more personalized service. We estimate that each email costs Insight Cruises approximately $10. (Keep in mind, typing a response is small part of providing an answer.) We therefore assess fees for usage that is more than double the average.

Once you book with Insight Cruises, you are allotted 35 emails and/or phone calls. Included in this count — as one each — are: each phone call to Insight Cruises; each email you send to us; our reply to your email; plus each email we send out and/or receive to research and answer your questions that are not answered or addressed on our webpages.

In addition to the included 35 emails (which is your initial allotment), most of our added services automatically increase your allotment:
- Air Booking — you get 10 additional emails
- Travel Insurance (if you purchase through Insight Cruises) — you get 10 additional emails
- Foreign Shipping (i.e., if you live outside of the Continental USA) — you get 5 additional emails
- Last-Minute Changes/Additions — 5 emails per $50 fee
- Repeated Declined Credit Card — 5 emails per $50 fee
- A Suite booking comes with 10 additional emails.

When a booking surpasses the original 35 emails (plus any additional emails automatically provided as a result of the additional services above), you will be assessed $79 for an additional 10-email allotment.

**NOTES:** You will be notified when you reach 50%, and then again at 75%, of your allotted number of emails. All of our Email Service Fees are non-refundable.

**CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, INSURANCE, CHANGES**

Any cancellation or change of status (or request for a change in status) which relates to your booking must be transmitted as soon as possible to Insight Cruises in writing or via email. If you have travel insurance, and there is an unnecessary delay in notifying us of your change in status, your “cancellation date” will be affected and will adversely affect your insurance reimbursement.

Name changes are permitted (for a $175 fee) up until June 15, 2027. Name changes after June 15, 2027 are considered a cancellation and the per-person cancellation fees, below, will be assessed.

**Once booked, you are assessed a $175 pp Non-refundable Booking Service Fee.** Additional per-person cancellation fees are based on date of receipt of notice to cancel (via in writing or email):
- Cancellation prior to January 1, 2024: full refund (minus any of our Non-refundable Service Fees).
- Cancellation between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024: $150 pp Cancellation Processing Fee plus all of our Non-refundable Service Fees

**WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THE COSTS**

- Six (6) nights onboard the m.s. Darakum and two (2) nights in The Movenpick Aswan Hotel
- All meals are included (excluding breakfast on your day of arrival and lunch and dinner on your day of departure) — and are provided on the cruise for six days plus two days in the The Movenpick Aswan Hotel
- Government and hotel taxes
- Open bar at our six (6) cocktail parties, if you elect to add on our cocktail-party package.
- WiFi internet access onboard.
- Two bottles of water provided each night.
- Services of professional/Egyptology guides, if you elect to add on our TOURING Package.
- Services of two Insight Cruises tour managers.
- All land transportation between our hotels and the places we will visit/tour, if you elect to add on our TOURING Package.
- Entrance fees (some of which are $1,000+, for a group, plus “gifts” for official gatekeepers) to all sites as listed in the section below.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Any/all Non-refundable Service Fees including the $175 pp Booking Service Fee.
- Insight Cruises tour leaders’ gratuities ($80 pp).
- Airfare and transfers (to/from the airports).

**TERMS OF PARTICIPATION, page 2**

**TRIP CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION INSURANCE**

Please carefully consider buying this or another travel insurance.

We’ve never had a guest cancel because they won the lottery or had a brilliant stroke of fortune. More often than you would expect, we have had guests cancel because of pre-event illnesses, sports injuries, broken bones, death in the family, unexpected surgery, emergency surgery, stolen passports, and general family uproar. Life does throw curves. Spare yourself financial disappointment if your trip must be cancelled or is interrupted.

Currently, we offer two options. Both will reimburse you 100% up to a maximum trip cost for covered reasons — assuming you have insured the full cost of your trip:
- For U.S. residents of all ages, we recommend CSA’s G-906 product.
- For all non-U.S. residents we recommend Abroad Insurance.

**CSA G-906.** Unlike most trip interruption and cancellation insurance policies, you can purchase CSA G-906 up to 24 months before your trip, with cancellation reimbursement anytime before your scheduled departure. Typically, you must purchase it at least 10 days before your scheduled departure to be eligible for cancellations. Check your policy for details. You can purchase your CSA G-906 online at intuitivac.com or by calling 1-800-905-0858.

**IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.** A Passport, valid through February 15, 2023, is required. All travel documents such as passports, visas, proof of citizenship, etc., that are required for you to make the trip are the responsibility of the passenger. Non-U.S. citizens are asked to check with government agencies, embassies or consulates to determine documentary requirements.

Please see the Exit, Entry & Visa Requirements area for the U.S. State Department’s information on Exit/Entry Requirements for U.S. Citizens. You will be denied boarding without proper proof of citizenship and without all necessary visas. For non-U.S. citizens, the CBT International Entry Requirements form, here (https://cbtvisas.com/health-requirements/login=insightcruises), will provide the info you need.

Along with many thousands of American travelers, we rely on CBTvisas for our visas (we are not affiliated with CBTvisas, we are simply happy customers).

**Onboard and hotel gratuities** (for the housekeeping, cabin steward, and dining room staff, $15 pp, per day; i.e., $120)

Activities not specifically included in the

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- The TOURING Package is ~$2,650 pp as an optional add-on.
- The LECTURES Package is ~$775 pp; this is a mandatory fee though there is no charge for anyone under the age of 18.
- Wines and liquors, mineral waters, and food and beverages not on the regular menu of included meals.
- Our cocktail-party package ($210), which includes a 90-minute, open-bar, cocktail party for all six evenings.
- Accident, baggage, and Trip Cancellation and Interruption insurance.
- Items of a personal nature, including the spa in the hotel, laundry services, etc.

By registering for an Insight Cruise, the participant agrees to the responsibility statement and liability disclaimer and the terms and conditions herein.
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